Battle Angel Alita

KILLING ANGEL

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

KILLING ANGEL

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA™ GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

CONTENTS

KILLING ANGEL
Race 1: Discovery 5

KING OF KINGS
Race 2 New Alliances 51

THE SKULL CHALLENGE: PART ONE
Race 3: Work to Rule 75

THE SKULL CHALLENGE: PART TWO
Race 4. To Kill or to Win 119

ONLY ONE HEART
Race 5: Risking All 163

This volume contains BATTLE ANGEL ALITA PART THREE issues #1 through #5 in their entirety

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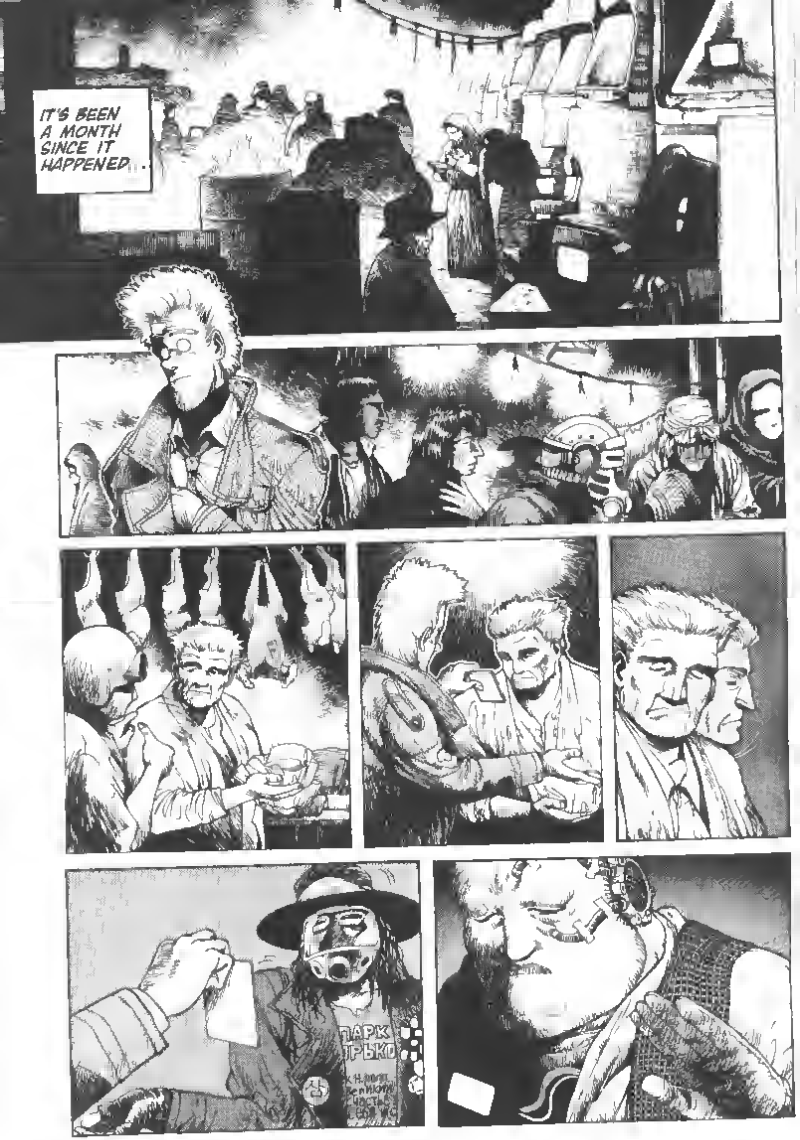
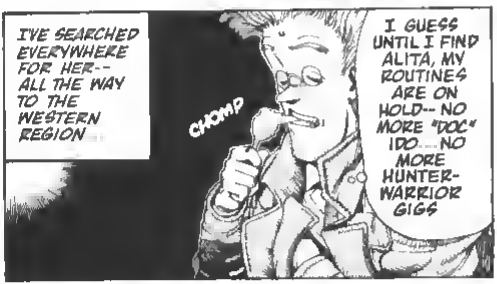
KILLING ANGEL

Part 1: Discovery

THE SCRAP YARD, WESTERN REGION...


IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE IT HAPPENED...
ПАРК ТРЪКО

...LOSING HUGO REALLY DID A NUMBER ON HER--
--ONE DAY ALITA JUST WALKED AWAY FROM EVERYTHING SHE DIDN'T COME BACK.


I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR HER-- ALL THE WAY TO THE WESTERN REGION
CHOMP
I GUESS UNTIL I FIND ALITA, MY ROUTINES ARE ON HOLD-- NO MORE "DOC" IDO... NO MORE HUNTER-WARRIOR GIGS

WHAT IF I DON'T FIND HER FOR YEARS ? WITHOUT ALITA..
...WITHOUT ALITA, THESE STREETS WILL BE MY ONLY FRIEND...

SNURF SNURF

GUESS I'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO CRASH.
plop

HEH, HEH
YEEEK
RRRRRR
IT'S NOT ALITA
HELP...
SHUT UP!
I'M SO TIRED TONIGHT...
...AND NO ROCKET-HAMMER EITHER.
SIGH.
....

HOLD HER DOWN, MAN..
HEH, HEH!
HEH, HEH, HEH.
CHAK
CHAK

WHAT THE--!?
OWW!

YOW!
SPORK

YOU WANNA FIGHT, MAN!?
NO, NOT EXACTLY...

BUT I THINK THIS PIPE MIGHT LIKE TO KISS YOU TWO GOODNIGHT...
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, MAN!
TONK
GAH!!
WHAK
DAMN YOU!
CHING
WHUD
!
TING
JING
THANG
HEH, HEH...
I'M GONNA RIP YOUR THROAT OUT, MAN!
TAM
TING JING

!
FWAK
SKLONK
SKRO NK
PUNK KIDS. NO MATCH FOR A MAN USED TO DEALING WITH CYBER-ENHANCED MURDERERS!
THANK YOU!

"SHUMIRA" THAT WAS HER NAME TOO BAD I TOLD HER MINE.
SHUMIRA REALLY APPRECIATES WHAT IDO DID.
SHUMIRA REALLY, REALLY WANTS TO THANK IDO-- OKAY?
IDO HAS NO PLACE TO STAY? THEN STAY AT SHUMIRA'S PLACE! SHUMIRA WILL MAKE IDO DINNER!
AFTER ALL SHE'S BEEN THROUGH, THIS SHUMIRA SEEMS OVERLY CARELESS.
I'M SUCH A STOIC AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
BY THE WAY...
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...
BOING!
!

SHUMIRA GRABBED MY ARM, AND AS WE WOUND THROUGH THE WESTERN ZONE, I FOUND MYSELF LOST IN CONTEMPLATION

"WHAT IS ALITA TO ME, REALLY!?"

MOTORBALL..?
MOTOR BALL
VERONICA CIRCUIT
WHEN I SNAPPED OUT OF MY REVERIE, I SAW THAT WE HAD FOUND OUR WAY TO A ROUGHNECK HANGOUT

I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE... A COMBAT-ORIENTED RACETRACK IN THE WESTERN REGION..
...WHERE CYBORG CIRCUIT-RIDERS COMPETE TO CONTROL THE BALL
ONE TICKET FOR NO 57!
HERE'S A TICKET FOR CHANNEL 57...
..IDO GO WATCH THIS! OKAY!
HUH?
HEY, HEY, HEY, ALL YOU CURIOUS APPARITIONS OF THE TRANSIENT WORLD..THE TIME TO OPEN UP THE GATES OF HELL IS AT HAND!
AND YES--THOSE COURAGEOUS YET GLOOMY DUDES WHO BOUGHT MONITOR TICKETS MAY NOW GO TO THEIR PRIVATE COFFINS IN THE BASEMENT! THANK YOU!
HUH?
WHERE'D YOU GO, SHUMIRA!?

I DON'T GET IT.
THIS KIND OF MOB-RULE CHAOS ISN'T MY STYLE AT ALL.
IF I'D KNOWN THAT I'D WIND UP HERE, I MIGHT'VE TAKEN HER UP ON THE OFFER TO CRASH BACK AT HER PLACE.
HMM... LONG AS I'M HERE, MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK.
TO-NG
WELCOME TO THE CHANNEL 57 SURROGATE, "VALDICCI"!
VIA THE SENSORY INPUT OF YOUR CHOSEN SURROGATE, YOU WILL NOW EXPERIENCE IN REAL-TIME THE ULTIMATE THRILL OF... MOTORBALL!
GOON

WHOA!
VRRR

VRRRMM
BWOOM
KAW
KLING
YEA!
YEA!
IT'S VALDICCI, OUR VETERAN NO 57! HE SEEMS TO BE PULLING INTO A PIT-STOP WITH MECHANICAL PROBLEMS!
SKIK IK IK
IK IK IK
VROOM

KATOING
MOVE IT WITH THAT NEW LEG!
AND LET'S GET THAT FLAIL ARM ON HERE!
NICK, WHO'S BALL-KEEPER NOW?
IT'S DESCHALEV HE'LL BE PASSING THE PIT SOON.
AND WATCH OUT FOR THAT ROOKIE!
EVERYBODY THAT'S GONE UP AGAINST THAT NEW KID'S BEEN ELIMINATED!
NOT MY PROBLEM, NICK! I'LL TAKE THEM ALL OUT!
CHONK
GO!
SKREEEM
OKAY!

OHH!
SHEE
OOM
!
BALLKEEPER NO 31, DEGCHALEV, IS BEING ATTACKED BY VALDICCI FROM THE PIT ROAD!
KRASH
KRAK
DEGGIE, UNABLE TO AVOID THE ATTACK, CRASHES!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
57
KAWABOOM
THE MOTORBALL HAS PASSED INTO NO 57-- VALDICCI'S-- HANDS !

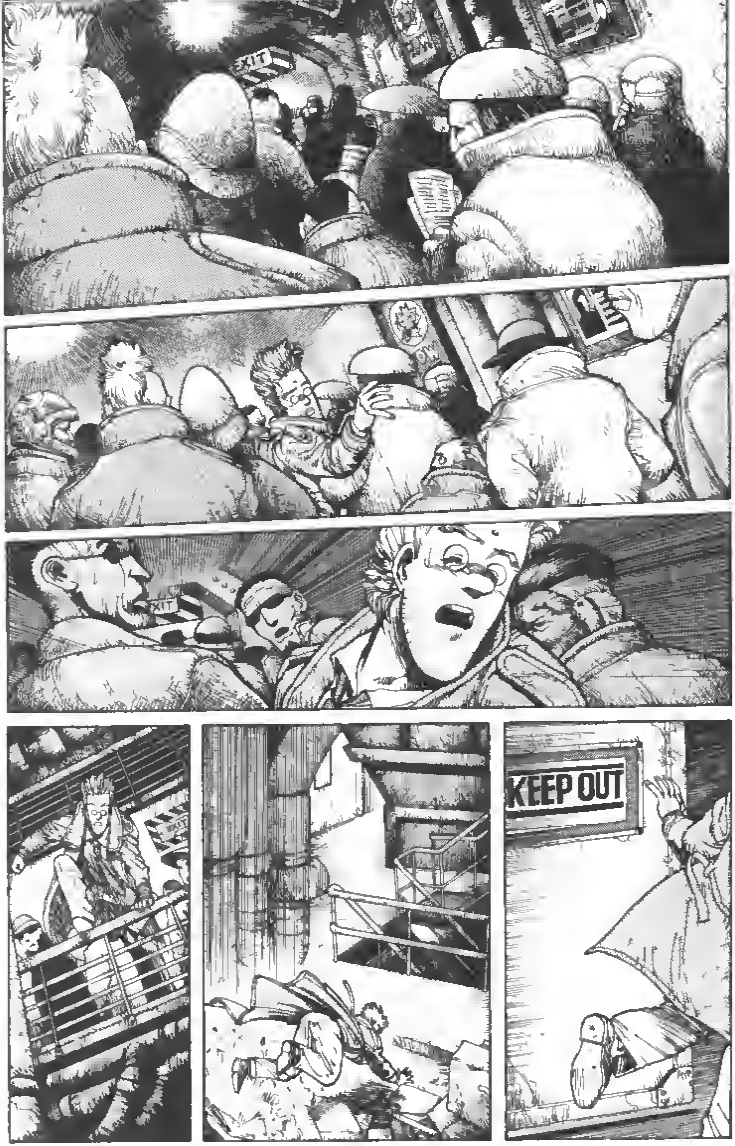
YEE-HA!
NO ONE CAN CATCH UP TO VALDY! HE'S ON HIS FINAL LAP! WILL HE BE THE VICTOR!?
VRRRMM
VALDY'S IN THE HOME-STRETCH!
BUT WAIT-- THERE'S A PLAYER STOPPED, WAITING FOR HIM AT THE GOAL LINE!
VRR-RRRMMMMM
IT'S THE KILLING ANGEL, WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED ON THE CIRCUIT TWO WEEKS AGO.
...NO. 99!

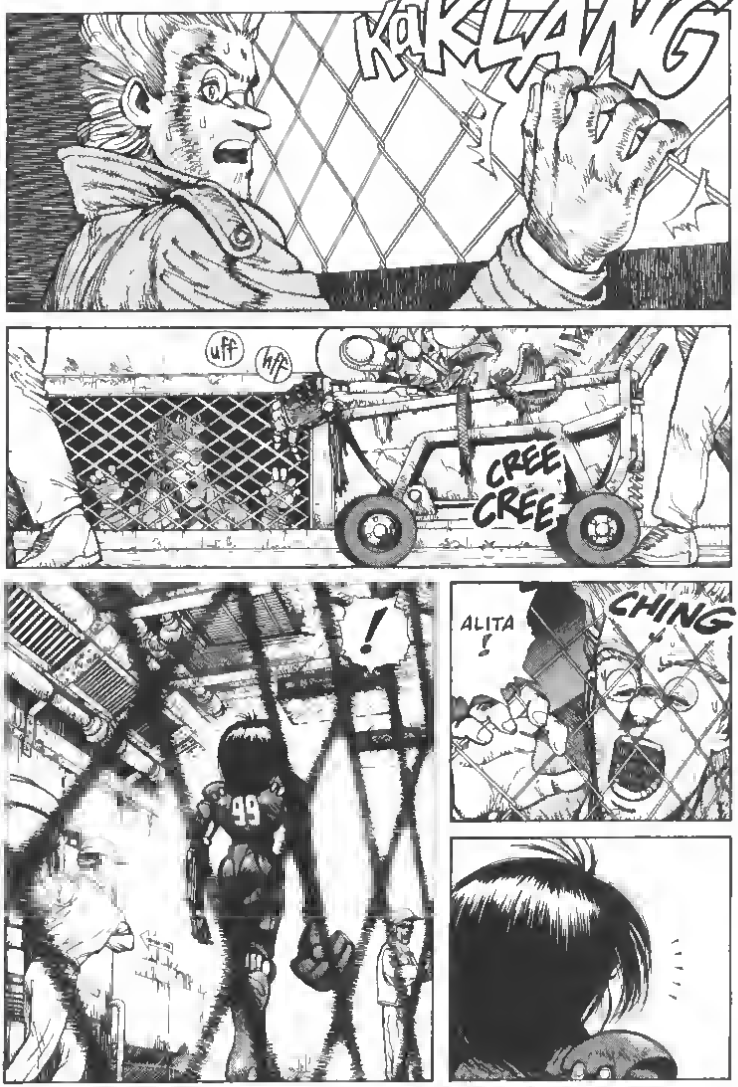
AAA-
LEEE-
TAAAAAH!
ALITA
95

YAAAH!
KRESH
SHASH
KaWHAM

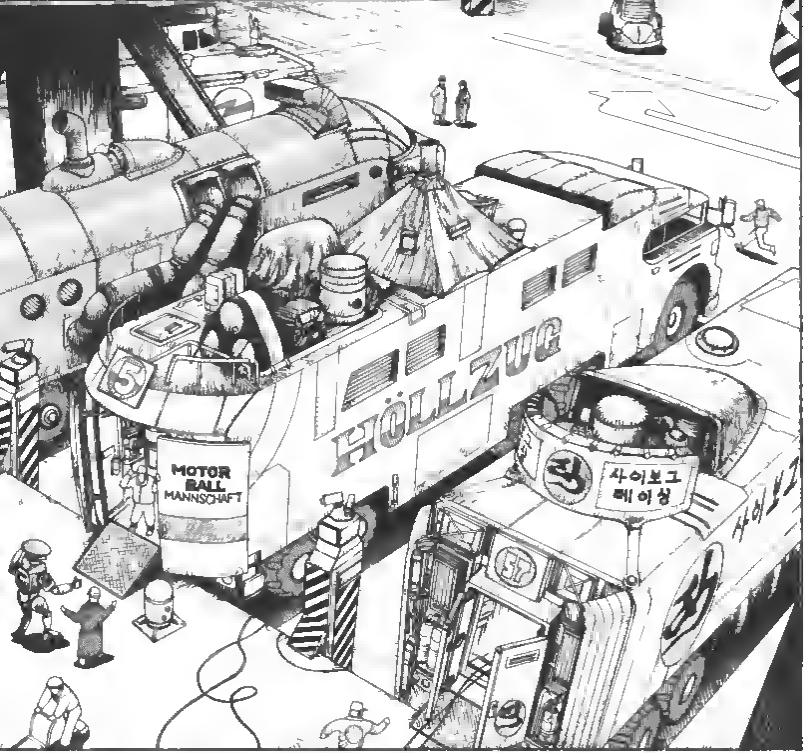
NOO!
FWUMP
YEA! YEA!
uff
hff
uff
A-ALITA !? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
hff
hooray!
uff

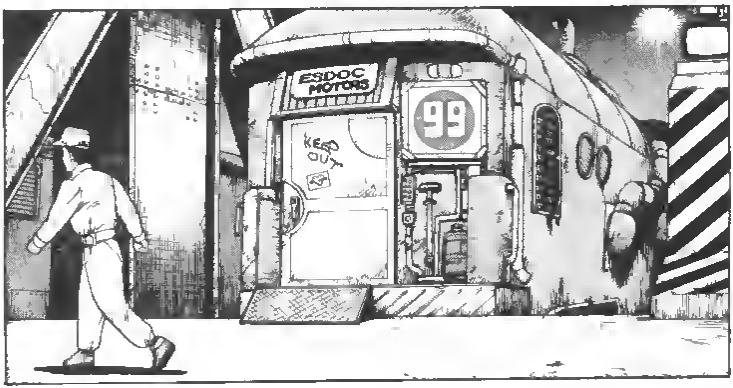
WITH THE BALL RAISED HIGH, SHE WALKS ACROSS THE FINISH LINE! TALK ABOUT NERVE!
IT'S THE FOURTH WIN FOR NO 99, ALITA, SINCE HER STUNNING DEBUT!


EXIT
EXIT
KEEP OUT


KAKLANG
uff
hff
CREE
CREE
!
99
ALITA
!
CHING

ALI...
. . . .
HEY, WHADDYA DOIN' HERE !?
THIS IS OFF LIMITS, YOU JERK !
LET ME GO!
LEGGO !
WHUD
ALITA ..!
THUD


HÖLLZUG
MOTOR BALL MANNSCHAFT
사이보그 메이상


ESDOC MOTORS
99
KEEP OUT

PHOOSH
SSSTTT
CHANK
SHOOOSHTTT
KATANK

INCREDIBLE-- YOU'RE OUTTA THIS WORLD, ALITA!
EH. HEH
FOUR STRAIGHT WINS WITH A CIRCUIT-RIDER BODY THAT AIN'T BEEN FULLY TUNED YET.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES MY FINGERS ARE JUST ITCHIN' TO GET TO WORK
EH-HEH.
.....
TWEEP TWEEP
SNORP
KUUU

NOW, UMBA! DON'T GET EXCITED JUST 'CAUSE ALITA BEAT SOME THIRD-LEAGUE JUNKER..
...WHY, BACK WHEN I WAS DOING THE CIRCUIT--
UNH! D-DAMN! MY HAND...
TISHATISH
D-DON'T WORRY... HER MONITOR TICKET SALES ARE B-B-BRISK-- ALITA'S A GREAT INVESTMENT!
TICKATICK
M-M-MEDICINE...
TOK
SO, ED-- YOU FOUND THAT GIRL A BACKER YET?
HOOK
IF WE MAINTAIN HER WIN AVERAGE AND GET A SPONSOR TO COVER EXPENSES, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE UP TO THE SECOND LEAGUE IN NO TIME!
IN ALITA'S CASE, EVEN TOP LEAGUE ISN'T OUT OF REACH!
HEH...
WAH HA HA HA!

HMPH! LIFE'S A FUNNY THING, ISN'T IT?
TO THINK THAT A GIRL WHO JUST A MONTH AGO WAS BAWLING HER EYES OUT IN JOE'S BAR..
!

NOW, ED!

OOPS, THAT'S RIGHT PROMISED NOT TO BRING THAT UP...

UMBA ..
HMM ?

WHY DID YOU GIVE MY CIRCUIT-RIDER BODY FEMALE PROPORTIONS?

W-WHY, BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL, O'COURSE..
..PLUS IT'S LIGHT-WEIGHT AND HIGH-SPEED-- FOR A HUMANOID.
BESIDES, THE SPECTATORS GET A RISE OUT OF IT

AFTER HUGO, I...
...I WANTED TO FORGET EVERYTHING.
THAT'S WHY I APPLIED TO BECOME A MOTORBALL PLAYER.
THE BERSERKER BODY IDO GAVE ME SLEEPS DEEP INSIDE A WAREHOUSE.
...DREAMING OF IDO'S LOVE FOR ME AND MY LOVE FOR HUGO
BUT I-- I HAVE ONLY ONE DREAM NOW...
...TO BECOME A RAZOR'S EDGE OF PUREST STEEL!

STUPID JERK!
GET LOST, BUDDY!
TWAK
KERSLAM
M-MY HOLOCARD...
OH!
POP
.....
TING
UHHH...

ALITA'S CHANGED.. SHE'S IN ANOTHER WORLD NOW....
KRAK
KRUNCH
IDO !
SHUMIRA ..
IDO BLEEDING! IS IDO OKAY?

IDO TALK TO GIRL AT MOTORBALL?
IT--IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY MORE.
THEN COME TO SHUMIRA'S PLACE, OKAY !?
DO YOU HAVE FAMILY ?
YEAH ! BUT BIG BROTHER NOT HOME MUCH ! SHUMIRA LONELY !
DOCTOR IDO MAKE BIG BROTHER BETTER!
BIG BROTHER SICK ! IDO MAKE BETTER, OKAY!?
WHAT MAKES SHUMIRA-- AHEM-- YOU THINK I'M A DOCTOR ?
THIS !
THE DOCTOR MARK !
EH !?
AH ! LOOK, IDO ! LOOK !

THE TOP LEAGUE TOURNEY: 289
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!
CHAMPION JASHUGAN
MOTORBALL
HERE!
SHUMIRA'S BIG BROTHER!
SO THIS IS THE STAR OF THE MOTORBALL TOP LEAGUE...
...JASHUGAN!
TH-THIS IS YOUR BIG BROTHER?
ISN'T BIG BROTHER COOL?

YA AA AA
AT THE "LAZY CORNER," THE LEAD GROUP GETS TANGLED AND WIPES OUT!
KAKRESH
THE MOTORBALL IS FREE, BUT NONE OF THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS CAN GET A HOLD ON IT!
BLAM
KATAM
WITH THE BALL REBOUNDING UNPREDICTABLY, IT'S ALL THEY CAN DO TO AVOID THE LEAD GROUP'S CRASH AND NEGOTIATE THE CORNER!

A AAAH
THE MOTORBALL IS THIRTY CENTIMETERS IN DIAMETER AND AND WEIGHS FORTY KILOGRAMS! BULGES IN THE BALL'S SURFACE PROTRUDE AT RANDOM...
SPHERICAL
SWITCH
BUT A SWITCH INSIDE THE GRIP HOLES CAN MOMENTARILY SHUT DOWN THE INTERNAL MOTOR TO ROTATE THE BULGES WITHOUT GRASPING IT BY THE HOLES PROPERLY, THE BALL IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD FOR LONG!
BUT WAIT! SOMEONE JUST SNATCHED THE BALL AWAY--RACING LIKE A BLACK WIND!
!?
SH
HA
SH

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S NUMBER 99.. ALITA! WILL THIS BE HER FIFTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY !?
SHHHASH
"... TO BECOME A RAZOR'S EDGE OF PUREST STEEL!"
HMPH! SO NAIVE...
...STEEL OF HIGH PURITY IS SURPRISINGLY FRAGILE, ALITA.

GRRR!
!
SKREE
FWOK
NOW, THESE BLADES WE EQUIPPED YOU WITH--THEY'RE "DAMASCUS BLADES," CREATED BY THE FINEST BLADEMAKER.

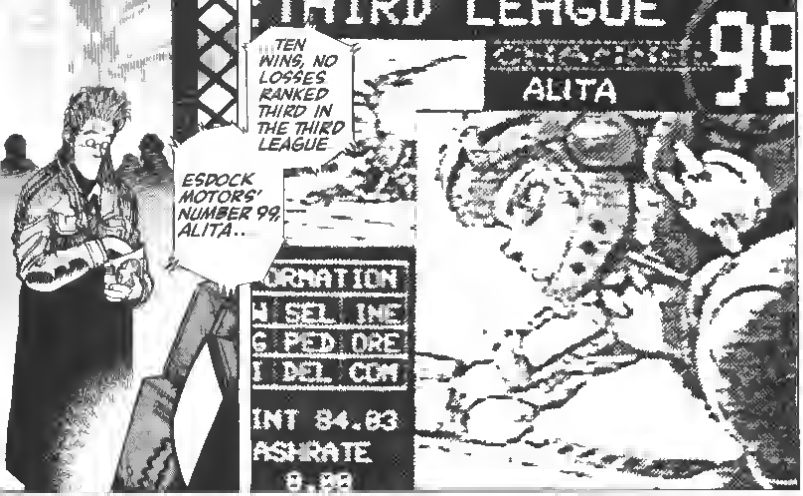
THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL PATTERN TO THE SURFACE...
...CAUSED BY THE MIXING OF VARIOUS METALS OF DIFFERING HARDNESS.
TO THINK... THESE BLADES WERE MADE USING SCRAP METAL...
...THE STRONGEST STEEL IN ALL THE UNIVERSE... AND IT CAN ONLY BE MADE HERE--IN THE SCRAPYARD.
THE IMPURITIES GIVE LIFE TO THE STEEL, RESULTING IN FLEXIBILITY AND TENACITY-- THE STRENGTHS OF THE DAMASCUS BLADE.

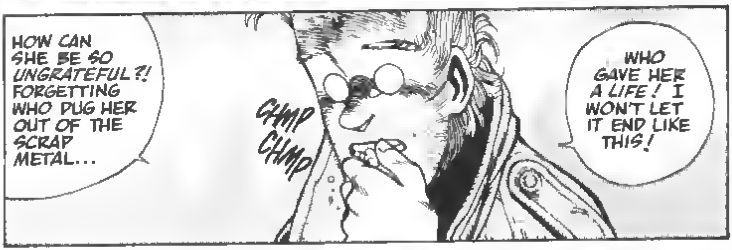
SHHHASH
I CAN DO IT!
AND AT THE FINAL CORNER... NUMBER 62, "ARMOR TOGO," TURNS, BRAKES, AND ASSUMES THE "DRAGON-FLY STANCE"! WE'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE THIRD LEAGUE CHAMPION'S DEADLIEST TECHNIQUE!
CAN YOU MATCH THE LIGHTNING THRUST OF THE JIGEN SCHOOL?!
62
YAAAAA!
SKASH
SPEEE
KREEK
TANG

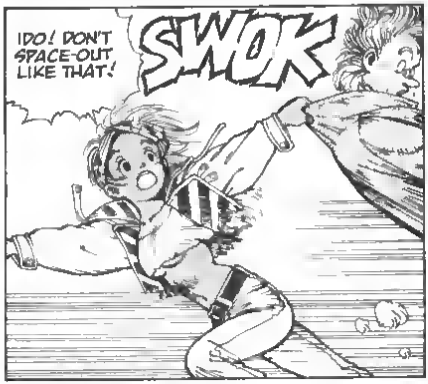
OHH! JUST LOOK AT THOSE FIREWORKS!
KA-SHA-NG
BUT WHO IS THE VICTOR!?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW COULD MY "SWORD OF LONG LIGHT" JUST BREAK LIKE THAT!?
!!
PLOP
62

KABONK
62
TOGO'S HEAD HAS FALLEN! THE CHAMP HAS BEEN DEFEATED! THE WINNER IS NUMBER 99--ALITA!
SKREECH
SKIK IK IK IK
ALITA
99
"THE IMPURITIES GIVE LIFE TO THE STEEL..."

KING OF KINGS
Race 2: New Alliances


THIRD LEAGUE
99
ALITA
...TEN WINS, NO LOSSES RANKED THIRD IN THE THIRD LEAGUE
ESPOCK MOTORS' NUMBER 99, ALITA..
ORMATION
W SEL INE
G PED ORE
I DEL COM
INT 84.83
ASHRATE
8.88


HOW CAN SHE BE SO UNGRATEFUL?! FORGETTING WHO PUG HER OUT OF THE SCRAP METAL...
CHMP CHMP
WHO GAVE HER A LIFE! I WON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!


IDO! DON'T SPACE-OUT LIKE THAT!
SWOK

BIG BROTHER'S GOT A RACE TODAY!

BUT ISN'T YOUR BROTHER SICK? YOU SAID...
SHUMIRA WORRIED, TOO.
BUT BIG BROTHER IS CHAMPION! CAN'T LOSE!

JASHUGAN, THE CHAMPION OF THE TOP LEAGUE... THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD OF MOTORBALL.
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!
CHAMPION JASHUGAN
3 TIME
I'VE BEEN STAYING AT HIS SISTER'S APARTMENT FOR A WEEK ALREADY, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T MET HIM.

MOTORBALL TOP LEAGUE
GALVANI CIRCUIT
YAY! HOORAY!
JASHUGAN!
CERTAIN VICTORY

LOOKS LIKE STANDING ROOM ONLY..
HOORAY!
WHEN JASHUGAN'S IN THE RING, IT'S ALWAYS SOLD OUT EVEN THE MONITORS WE'LL HAVE TO WATCH FROM OUTSIDE.
REMINDS ME OF THE DAYS WHEN I WAS IN THE GAME
YEA!
GO!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE THE JUMP TO THE SECOND LEAGUE, BUT STUDY THE TOP FIGHTS VERY CAREFULLY, ALITA...
SOMEDAY YOU'LL MAKE THE CHALLENGE YOURSELF.
.....
TIP
TIP
TIP
TIP
TIP
SHWEEE.
OH! KIMJI!

FORGET ABOUT IT!
COME BACK, KIMJI!!
FWEEE
CUT IT OUT!
YAAAH!
TUP TUP
TUP TUP
TISH
YOU GOT HIM! THANKS..
GIVE SHUMIRA THIS! OKAY?
NO!
PUT A LEASH ON THE DAMN THING.
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE A NECK
WHAT IS IT, SHUMIRA? THE GAME'S STARTING
MEANIE!

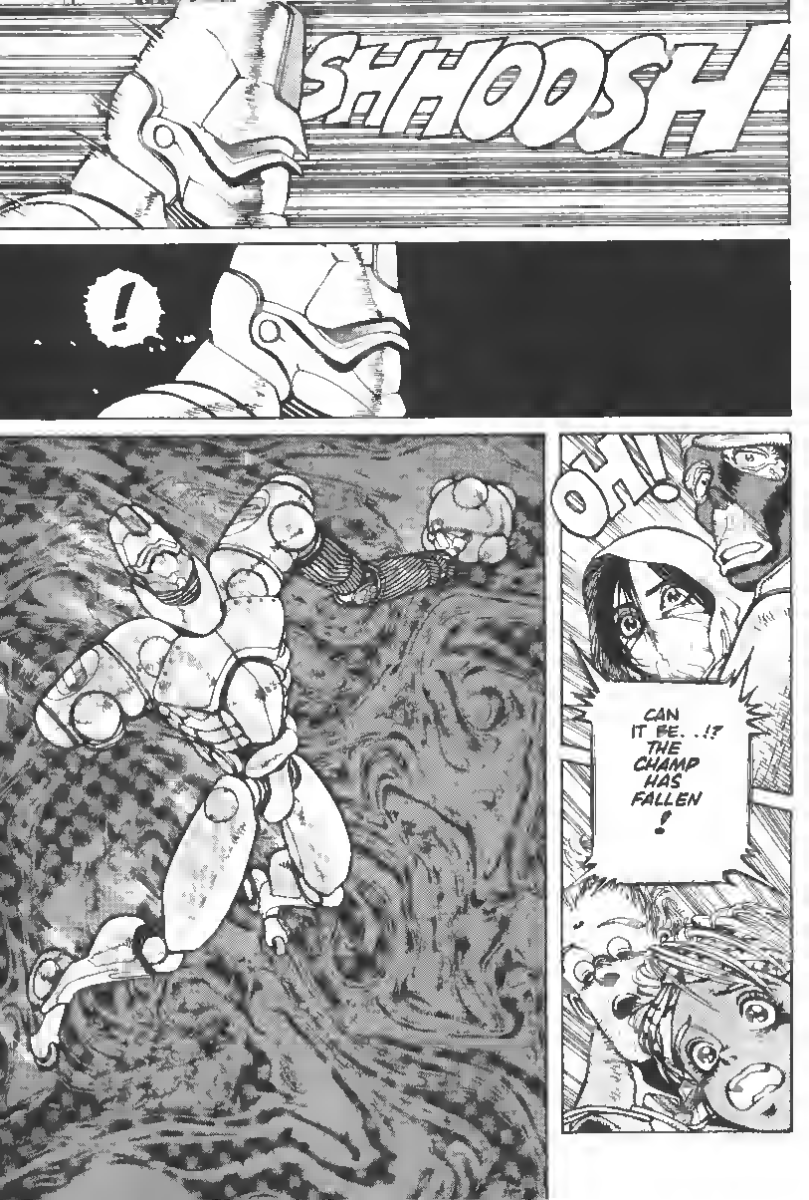
HOORAY!
YAAAH!
AND THE CROWD GOES WILD..
...AS JASHUGAN, KING OF MOTORBALL, MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE ON THE CIRCUIT IN A MONTH!
YAAAAH!
YAAAAH
BECAUSE OF THE CHAMPION'S INCREDIBLE SKILL, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE REASONABLE WAGERS IF HE PLAYS BY THE ORDINARY RULES
THAT IS WHY THE CHAMPION MUST HANDICAP HIMSELF BY REMOVING HIS RIGHT ARM--AND FACE A THREE-MAN CHALLENGER TEAM!
THE CHALLENGING TEAM IS NUMBER 49, CLAYMORE, RANKED FIFTH...
...NUMBER 87, PIHAGETTA, RANKED SEVENTH..
...AND NUMBER 6, KARASHNIKOFF, RANKED THIRD ALL THREE ARE SUPERIOR TOP-BALLERS!
SAAAAAAH
YOU MEAN HE TAKES ON THREE CHALLENGERS AT ONCE. AND WITH ONLY ONE ARM!?
TYPICAL OF HIM
THIS IS INSANE!
WIN, BIG BROTHER! FOR SURE!

THE PLAYERS TAKE THEIR WARMUP RUN, LED BY THE PACE CAR.
VRRRRM
ÜBEL
PRE-STAGED
KYBER UN' KOMPANIE
ÜBEL
SHAAASH
RRROAR
THE MOTORBALL HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM THE PACE CAR!
BASH
KAKAK

THE GAME BEGINS !
FWOOOM
UBEL
WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO CATCH THE MOTORB--
WHA- !?
KWUD

KOOSH
WHAT !?
HOW !?
KRANG

HOORAY
THE CHALLENGING TEAM'S SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS FROM THREE DIRECTIONS AMOUNT TO NOTHING IN THE FACE OF THE KING'S SUPERHUMAN RUNNING!
THE CHAMP HAS ALREADY LEFT THE PACK BEHIND!
FAS
ASH
RECENTLY THE CHAMP HAS PARTICIPATED IN FEWER AND FEWER RACES, LEADING SOME FANS TO SPECULATE THAT HE HAD RETIRED OR EVEN DIED...
BUT THIS SPLENDID RUNNING HAS BLOWN AWAY SUCH WORRIES! THE KING IS ALIVE AND WELL!
THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'S FAST..
YAY!
YAY!
..BUT IF IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF DODGING--I CAN DO THAT MYSELF!
HEH, HEH... YOU'LL SEE HOW AWESOME HE REALLY IS WHEN HE USES HIS "MACHINE FIST."
MACHINE FIST...?
THAT'S THE REASON HE'S UNBEATEN
BUT HE DOES SEEM TO BE HURRYING TO WIN THIS ONE WHAT'S HE THINKING..?


SHHOOSH
!
OH!
CAN IT BE..!? THE CHAMP HAS FALLEN!

JASHUGAN HAS DROPPED THE BALL! COULD THE CHAMP BE HAVING MECHANICAL PROBLEMS!?
THE CHALLENGING TEAM HAS CAUGHT UP AND RECOVERED THE MOTORBALL
SHASSHH
BUT THE CHALLENGERS FOREGO THE ATTACK, PASSING THE CHAMPION BY!
THE CHAMPION STILL HASN'T RISEN TO HIS FEET!
OOOH!
BIG BROTHER!
TALK ABOUT AN UPSET!
JASHUGAN IS HEADING INTO THE PIT AREA! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!?
YAAAAH!
WAIT! THE CHAMPION IS UP-- BUT HE'S STAGGERING, DAZED!
SKSKSKT
YAAAHH!

JASHUGAN CRUMBLES INTO THE PIT! WILL HE BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE RACE!? IF HE DOESN'T RETURN TO THE TRACK IN TEN MINUTES, THE CHAMP IS DISQUALIFIED--AND THE CHALLENGING TEAM WILL WIN!
KAAANG
KAAANG
YAAAY!
COME ON, SHUMIRA--LET'S GO SAVE YOUR BROTHER!
CHANG
UH-HUH!
OH M-MAN, HOW RECKLESS CAN YOU GET, THAT FOOL...
I-I'DO!
HEY YOU! BACK OFF!
FWUMP

AAAH!
THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE ARENA, AND THE EXCITED FANS ARE STARTING TO CLIMB OVER THE FENCE--A DANGEROUS SITUATION INDEED!
YAK!
ELECTRIFY THE FENCE!
ZZT
ZZT
STAY THE HELL OFF THE TRACK, FOLKS!
YOU WANT TO DIE SO MUCH, YOU DAMNED SWINES!?
PIT IN HAKUGAN
SHUMIRA! WHO IS THAT MAN!?
BRAIN GEARS
IDO HAS MARK OF DOCTOR! SEE!?
CALL SECURITY!

OOH!
I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, DOCTOR...!
I'LL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN! TELL ME THE PATIENT'S CONDITION.
HE'S SUFFERED A SPASMATIC ATTACK--GONE "FLATLINE"! HE'S ALWAYS COME OUT OF IT NATURALLY BEFORE, BUT..
THIS WAY!
IT'S BEEN 58 SECONDS SINCE HIS BRAIN FUNCTIONS CEASED!
DAMN, I CAN'T GET A RESPONSE!
GLUCOSE METABOLISM IS DROPPING RAPIDLY!
CORONER
RAGE
NOISE
BIG BROTHER!
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM ENTERING THIS RACE, BUT HIS PRIDE AS CHAMPION WOULDN'T LET HIM WITHDRAW...

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF SOMEONE HAVING A FLATLINE ATTACK...
...WHAT'S THE CAUSE? DRUGS? SOME EXTERNAL WOUND? METABOLIC POISONING?
HE'S HAD CEREBRAL RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY. THE NEW SUPERHUMAN ABILITY OF HIS COMBAT BRAIN MADE HIM MOTORBALL CHAMPION--BUT THE PRICE HE PAID WAS THE CONSTANT RISK OF DEATH.
BRAIN RECONSTRUCTION!?
HMM...
THEY'VE STRENGTHENED HIS NEURONS WITH ARTIFICIAL PROTEINS. THE COLUMN STRUCTURE OF THE CEREBRAL CORTEX HAS EVEN BEEN REBUILT...!
THIS IS TIPHAREAN TECHNOLOGY CALLED GEHIRN UMBAU! THEY MUST HAVE USED MOLECULAR-SIZED ROBOTS.. NANO-MACHINES!
SOMEONE IN THE SCRAPYARD HAS THIS LEVEL OF SKILL!?
AND THE PIT CREW RECOGNIZED THE MARK OF A TIPHARES CITIZEN ON MY FOREHEAD.. CAN IT BE..!?

OKAY, THIS IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT I WANT YOU TO STIMULATE HIS ACETYL-CHOLINE* PRO-DUCTION WITH ELECTRODES!
AT THE SAME TIME I WANT A DRIP SOLUTION OF GLUTAMIN ACIDS MIXED WITH PEPTIDES!
AND SEND SHUMIRA OVER HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, DOCTOR?
I'M GOING TO PUT SHUMIRA'S BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS THROUGH THE AMP--
"SHOCK" JASHUGAN'S BRAIN!
WILL THAT REALLY BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE!?
YOU WON'T FIND IT IN ANY TEXT, BUT FOR PEOPLE WHO'VE JUST DIED... A BECKONING FROM A FAMILY MEMBER MAY BE THE ONLY WAY.
SHUMIRA, WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL...

*THE HORMONE ACETYLCHOLINE IS RELEASED AND HYDROLYZED DURING NERVE CONDUCTION, CAUSING MUSCLE ACTION BY TRANSMITTING NERVE IMPULSES ACROSS SYNAPSES

...PRAY HARD! PRAY THAT YOUR BROTHER WILL COME BACK TO YOU!
READY...!
SHOOMM
WHOOMM
GAH HA HA! THE ONE WITH THE BALL'S THE NEXT CHAMP!
GIVE IT TO ME!
SLASH
DAMN YOU, KARASHNIKOFF!
HA..

WHA-?!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA... BEHOLD THE CHAMPION OF MOTOR-BALL--
--NOW AND FOREVER!

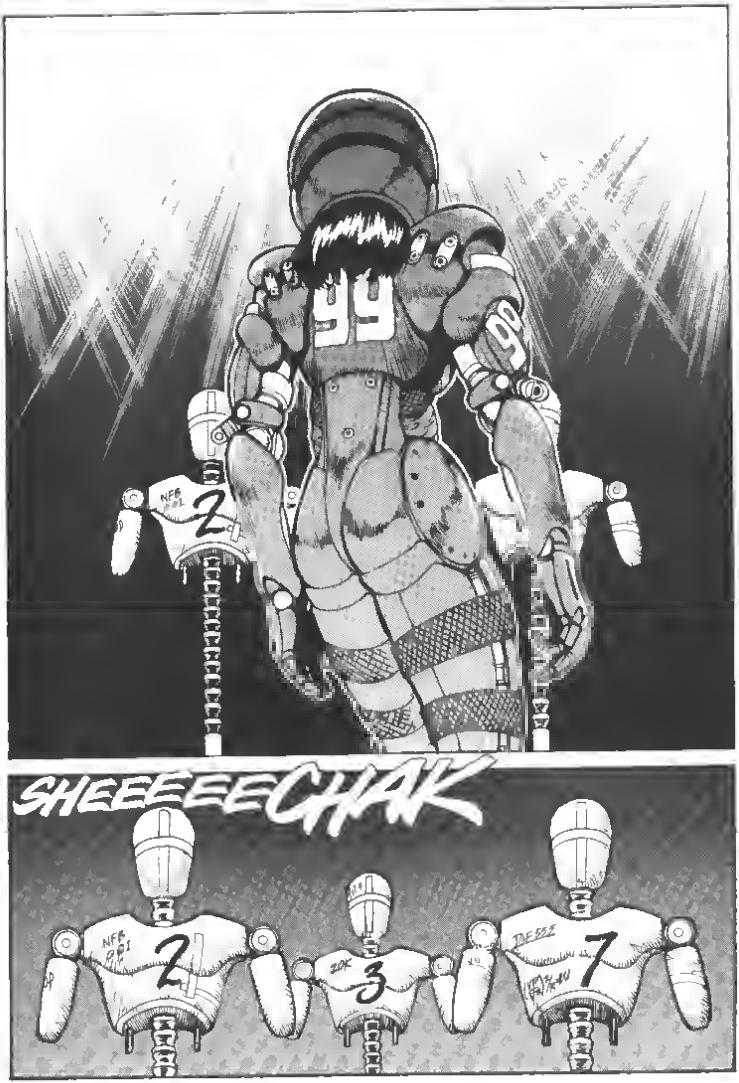
JASHUGAN HAS RETURNED! THE CHAMPION HAS MADE A COMPLETE COMEBACK AND THE CROWD GOES WILD!
BOOSH!
PHEW... I WAS WORRIED THERE...
KASKLASH!
HA HA!
THE EMPEROR INSTANTLY ANNIHILATES TWO OF HIS OPPONENTS AND BEARS DOWN ON THE BALLKEEPER, NO. 6.. KARASHNIKOFF!
PLEASE, GOD.
SKANG
OKAY, CHAMP! I'LL TAKE YOU ON!
SKASH

THIS BALL IS MINE--!
ZMMM
ZEE
SH
KA
BASH

MASCHINE KLATSCH MODE B9B SIDEWINDER... THIS BALL IS MINE!
HOORAY!
NO. 6, KARASHNIKOFF, IS DAMAGED! JASHUGAN REMAINS THE CHAMP!
HEH, HEH HE'S GOOD
WITH JASHUGAN IN MY DEBT, I CAN CRUSH ALITA'S PRIDE AND MAKE HER MINE AGAIN..!

THE SKULL CHALLENGE: PART ONE

Race 3: Work to Rule

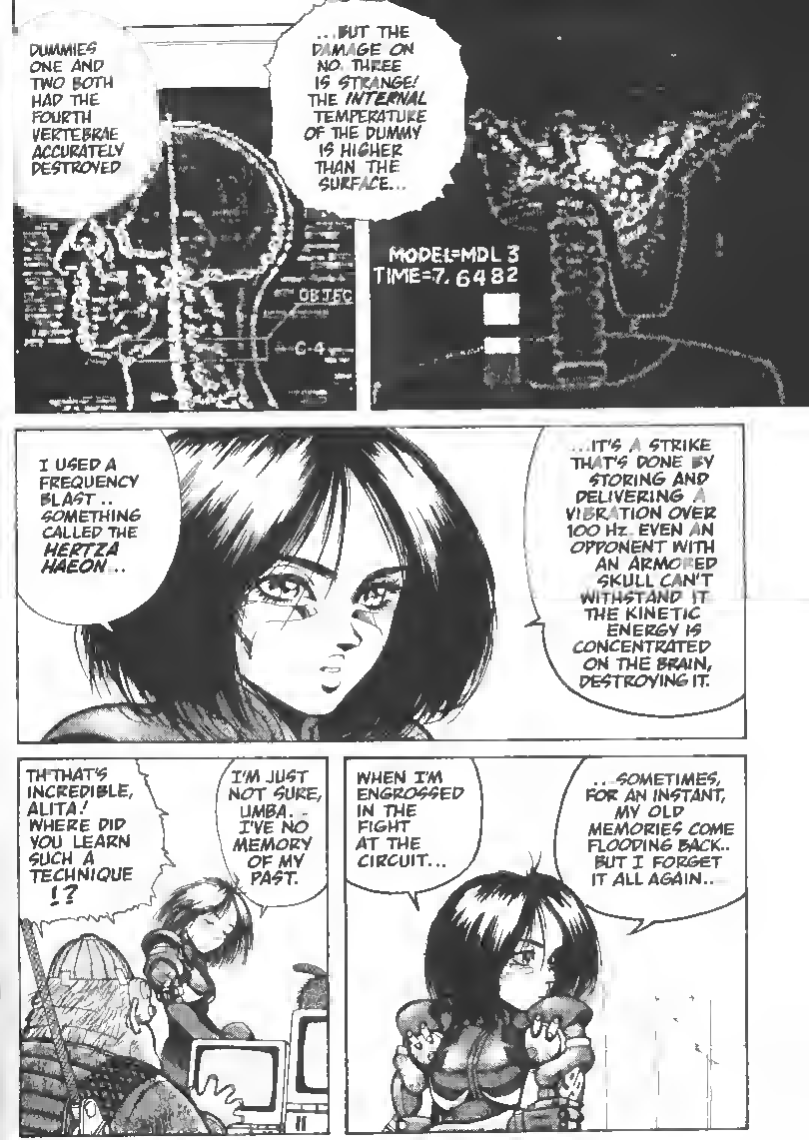

99
2
SHEEEEEECHAK
2
3
7

ALITA
OKAY...
BEEP TIK
ALITA
HMM...
CHEE
CHEE
ALITA
I'SEE..
!
YMMMM
READY!
SHASH

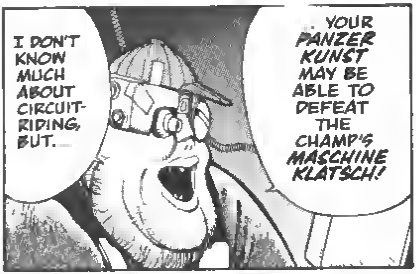
FWAK
SKRAK

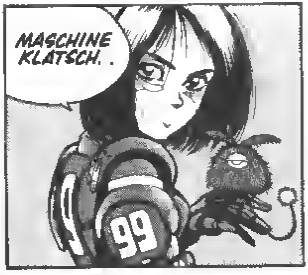
CHOK
FOOSH
KK
Q=1.4
KAWHAK
Q=1.4

SHOOP
Q=14
TIKITIKI
BLOOSH
WHUD
WOW, ALITA! EVEN PULLED DOWN BY COMPETITIVE CRIPPLING GEAR.. A POWER LIMITER, ADDED GEAR WEIGHT-- YOU'VE GOT MANEUVERABILITY TO SPARE! I'M BLOWN AWAY!
WHAT KINDA MAGIC ARE YOU USIN' TO HOLD UP UNDER CIRCUIT GEAR, ALITA?
IT'S NOT MAGIC, UMBA
IT'S MY PANZER KUNST..
--A LOST COMBAT TECHNIQUE FOR MACHINE BODIES. I-I DON'T KNOW WHERE I LEARNED IT...


DUMMIES ONE AND TWO BOTH HAD THE FOURTH VERTEBRAE ACCURATELY DESTROYED
...BUT THE DAMAGE ON NO. THREE IS STRANGE! THE INTERNAL TEMPERATURE OF THE DUMMY IS HIGHER THAN THE SURFACE...
OBJEC
C-4
MODEL=MDL 3
TIME=7. 6482
I USED A FREQUENCY BLAST.. SOMETHING CALLED THE HERTZA HAEON..
...IT'S A STRIKE THAT'S DONE BY STORING AND DELIVERING A VIBRATION OVER 100 Hz. EVEN AN OPPONENT WITH AN ARMORED SKULL CAN'T WITHSTAND IT THE KINETIC ENERGY IS CONCENTRATED ON THE BRAIN, DESTROYING IT.
TH-THAT'S INCREDIBLE, ALITA! WHERE DID YOU LEARN SUCH A TECHNIQUE !?
I'M JUST NOT SURE, UMBA.. I'VE NO MEMORY OF MY PAST.
WHEN I'M ENGROSSED IN THE FIGHT AT THE CIRCUIT...
...SOMETIMES, FOR AN INSTANT, MY OLD MEMORIES COME FLOODING BACK.. BUT I FORGET IT ALL AGAIN..

EVEN THE NAME ALITA... IT'S NOT MY REAL NAME...
...IDO GAVE IT TO ME--ALONG WITH THE BERSERKER BODY THEY'VE GOT IN STORAGE. NO MATTER WHAT FORM I WEAR-- IT'S ME, BUT IT'S NOT ME. NOTHING BUT TOOLS
JUST WHAT IS
...THE REAL ME?
99
99
WHO IS IT THAT LOOKS THROUGH THESE EYES?
WHO IS THIS PERSON WITH A HEART SO EASILY WOUNDED... A MIND SO HAUGHTY... SO AFRAID. AND SO CRUEL...?
I'VE GOT TO KNOW. AND THE ONLY LEAD I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO I AM
...IS MY PANZER KUNST
CHAK
TO REMEMBER THE TECHNIQUES I'VE LOST, I HAVE TO FIGHT--- TO FIGHT!


I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT CIRCUIT-RIDING, BUT...
...YOUR PANZER KUNST MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE CHAMP'S MASCHINE KLATSCH!


MASCHINE KLATSCH...
99

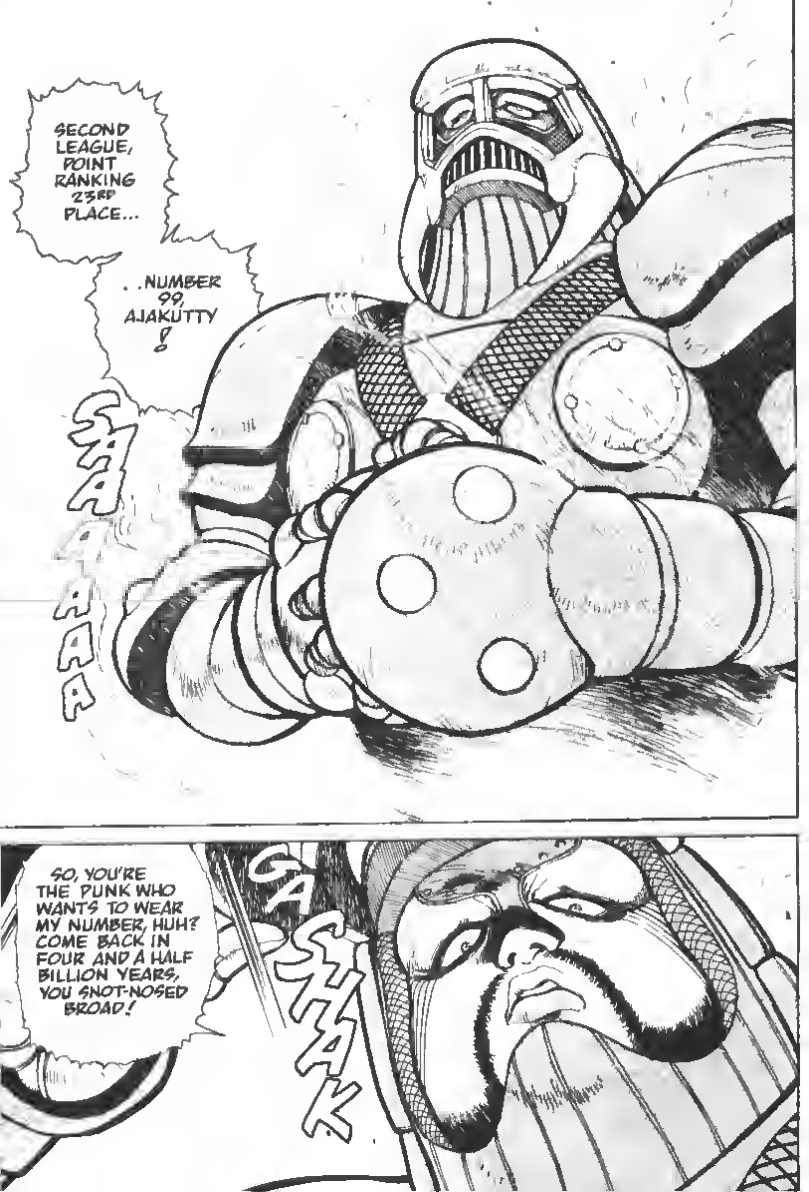
KACHIK

ALITA! UMBA! COME QUICK!
WE HAVE A WEE BIT OF TROUBLE...

SECOND LEAGUE'S UNDERGROUND GYMNASIUM ...
SHEEEEEASH
NO GIMMICK TRICK ONLY IT CAN ATTACK YOU ALL
WARNING ON SCHEDULE-ON CONTRACT COST WITH PERFORMANCE
OH! YOU'RE HERE!
THIS IS OUR TEAM'S SPONSOR, MR THOMPSON OF THE TRENCH BLOOM WASTE RECLAMATION COMPANY
CALL ME "TOMMY"
SO LITTLE IN PERSON
WE'VE GOT THE CONTRACTS SET, AND ALL THE CONDITIONS ARE MET FOR ALITA TO MOVE INTO THE SECOND LEAGUE. SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, EDT
SHEEEO
WELL, ACTUALLY... IT'S ONLY A LITTLE PROBLEM--AS LONG AS ALITA DOESN'T GET STUBBORN ON US!
?

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
IN ANY ONE OF THE LEAGUES, THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE HUNDRED PLAYERS, NUMBERED FROM 0 TO 99...
...SO WHEN NEW PLAYERS ENTER A LEAGUE THEY ARE USUALLY GIVEN THE NUMBERS OF PLAYERS THAT HAVE RETIRED OR DIED.
VOOM VOOM
CURRENTLY THERE ARE ABOUT TEN OPENINGS FOR THE SECOND LEAGUE, BUT
I WON'T HAVE ANY NUMBER BUT 99!
AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT NUMBER'S TAKEN IN THE SECOND LEAGUE.
SO THE NUMBER 99 HAS SOME SPECIAL MEANING TO YOU?
NOT REALLY.. I JUST LIKE IT, THAT'S ALL.
BUT ONCE I DECIDE ON SOMETHING, I NEVER CHANGE MY MIND
GET USED TO IT

OH, NO! HOW STUBBORN CAN ONE GIRL GET!?
KNOWING HOW YOU MIGHT FEEL, WE TRIED TO PETITION THE PLAYER WITH THE NUMBER 99-- BUT HE WAS VERY UPSET BY THE REQUEST.
UNLESS YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
414
VMMMMM
SCREEECHK
...YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM, ONE ON ONE, FOR THE NUMBER. IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?
SHAAAA


SECOND LEAGUE, POINT RANKING 23RD PLACE...
..NUMBER 99, AJAKUTTY !
GAAAAAA
SO, YOU'RE THE PUNK WHO WANTS TO WEAR MY NUMBER, HUH? COME BACK IN FOUR AND A HALF BILLION YEARS, YOU SNOT-NOSED BROAD!
GA-KHAK

DON'T LET HIM PROVOKE YOU, ALITA!
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUN A GAME WITH ALL RISK AND NO PROFIT!
FIGHT HIM, ALITA!
SHOW THIS SQUID THE COMBINED POWER OF YOUR PANZER KUNST AND MY CYBORG ENHANCEMENTS!
YOU IDIOT! WHY ARE YOU ENCOURAGING HER!?
NO ONE GETS AWAY WITH INSULTING ALITA!
WHY, BACK IN MY HEYDAY...!
COME BACK IN 45 BILLION YEARS!
WHADID-YASAY!?
AAAGH! MY ARM!
MY MEDICATION!
IN OTHER WORDS.
..IF I BEAT THIS GUY.. I GET TO KEEP MY NUMBER 99 AND ENTER INTO THE SECOND LEAGUE-- IS THAT RIGHT, MR THOMPSON?
THAT'S CORRECT.
BUT CALL ME TOMMY
YOU DARE, LITTLE ONE...?
GAH!
OF COURSE

OFFICIALLY, THIS IS A PRACTICE GAME— SO NO WEAPONS ARE ALLOWED!
IN PLACE OF THE MOTORBALL, WE WILL USE THIS SKULL.
THE ONE WHO PLACES THE SKULL ON THE HOOK PAST THE SECOND CORNER WINS.
THE MATCH WILL BE OVER IN TEN SECONDS! THE COURSE HAS NO TRAPS AND NO GIMMICKS! WE'LL PLAY BEST TWO OUT OF THREE!

VAWOOOM
VRMMM
VOOM
VOOM
THAT SQUID WILL BE AN EASY OPPONENT FOR ALITA... HEH,HEH !
YOU THINK SO HUH...?
THAT AJAKUTTY'S GOOD...
...THE ONLY REASON HIS AVERAGE IS SO LOW IS BECAUSE HE'S A FIGHTER TYPE--TENDS TO CHOOSE A BATTLE OVER THE WIN...
...OUR ALITA MAY HAVE A TOUGH TIME OUT THERE !
VROOM
VAWOOM
READY--!
VRMMM

GO!
SHA
AAAA
VMMM
SKUP

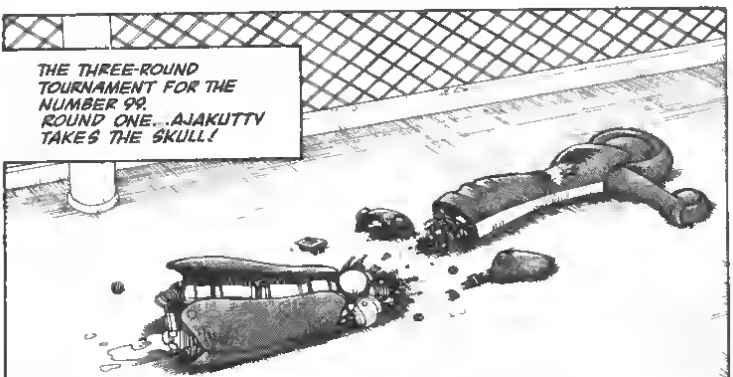
GOOD! JUST AS I THOUGHT-- ALITA, WHO'S LIGHTER, GOT THE LEAD!
THE FIRST CORNER!
VAMOOSH!
SHMMM
AJAKUTTY IS MOVING UP ON THE INSIDE!
HE'S GOING TO TRY SOMETHING AT THE TURN!

KAKKAK
KAKKAK
TUP-TUP
CHAK
TUP
THIS IS THE SKILL LEVEL OF THE SECOND LEAGUE?
HMPH!
ZZZ
ZASH
UNGH!
HOORAY! HE'S FALLEN!
IT'S SUICIDE TO DO A HIGH KICK WHILE CORNERING!

KRAK
SKEESH
!?
ALITA
HEH...
FWOK
..THOUGHT I WAS COMPLETELY STUPID, EH?!
GOTCHA !
KAMAAK
SKEEEE

SKRAKAKAK
KABOOM
BOOMP
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE DOWNED ALITA LIKE SHE WAS NOTHIN'!
AS I THOUGHT! THE HIGH KICKS AND SUBSEQUENT FALL WAS A FEINT! BUT FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL HIS FALL LIKE THAT...
BONK
OOF!
TANG
NO ONE CAN MATCH MY KICKING TECHNIQUES!

KA-KOK
I'VE MASTERED THE "ASIAN ARTS"-- MY KICKS ARE SUPREME! SEE WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST?
FINALLY AN OPPONENT WORTH BATTLING WITH...!


THE THREE-ROUND TOURNAMENT FOR THE NUMBER 99. ROUND ONE...AJAKUTTY TAKES THE SKULL!

THIS IS THE ONLY SPARE LEFT LEG WE'VE GOT IN STOCK ALITA

FINE! DON'T WORRY SO, UMBA! I JUST GOT A LITTLE CARELESS, THAT'S ALL!

I'M MAKING THE NEURAL CONNECTION NOW IT'LL STING FOR TWO TO THREE SECONDS, SO HOLD TIGHT
UGH
ZZZZZT
ESTRICTED AREA
WHAT'S THE HOLDUP!? IT'S BEEN FORTY MINUTES ALREADY!
HEH, HEH, HEH... AFTER SEEING MY "ASIAN ARTS," THEY'RE PROBABLY RUNNING SCARED-- DISCUSSING WAYS TO GET OUT OF THIS!
HAH, HA, HA, HA... THAT WEAKLING SHOULD RUN WHILE SHE CAN!

WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE GAME...
...IT TOOK US A WHILE TO GET ALL THE PARTS... SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
HOLD ON A SECOND, ESDOC
WHAT IS IT, MR THOMPSON?
JUST TEST IS FINE
ALITA IS A MAGNIFICENT PLAYER.. BUT THIS TIME WE MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG OPPONENT.
I THINK WE SHOULD WITHDRAW-- BEFORE THERE'S ANY MORE DAMAGE.
THAT MAN AJAKUTTY-- ALTHOUGH HE'S RANKED 23RD, HE'S CRASHED OVER TWO HUNDRED PLAYERS.
THE FANS CALL HIM "KING CRUSHER" OR "THE CROWNLESS KING." HE GOES FOR THE KILL, NOT THE WIN!

SO YOU'RE TELLING US TO ADMIT DEFEAT ?
THIS BATTLE OVER THE NUMBER 99 IS JUST A PERSONAL THING IT WON'T AFFECT ALITA'S AVERAGE. IT'S REGRETFUL, BUT..
I AGREE WITH YOU— IT'S A USELESS FIGHT, BUT...
..NOW THAT SHE'S STARTED, I DON'T THINK I COULD STOP IT EVEN IF I WANTED TO !
IF WE LET THIS GO ON, ALITA COULD BE PERMANENTLY DAMAGED!
AS HER COACH, I BELIEVE IN HER! SHE'LL WIN!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE HER SPONSOR, YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE IN HER AS WELL!

RMMM
RMMM
I DON'T KNOW-- STILL FEELS A LITTLE STRANGE...
WELL, I'VE ALIGNED THE NEW LEG--BUT, IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN DO.
YOUR COMPETITION BODY, IN ORDER TO GET BETTER FLEXIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE, HAS THREE TIMES THE NORMAL CHANNELS FOR THE ACTUATOR
TO HAVE EXCHANGED ALL THOSE PARTS WOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE TIME... IF I HAD A HIGH-QUALITY SYNCHRONIZER, IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT... BUT, FOR NOW, ANY HARDWARE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE YOUR OWN-- ON THE FLY
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO...
YOU ALL SET, ALITA ?
AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE...

ALL RIGHT-- YA STILL GOT TWO MORE CHANCES! GO GET HIM!
PAFF

BUT IF I WRECK ANOTHER BODY, THE SPONSOR IS PULLING OUT, RIGHT?
WHA-?
YOU HEARD UG!?

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE A NICER PERSON THAN YOU LOOK...

..THANKS FOR BELIEVING IN ME, ED!

NOW I'VE GOT A RACE TO WIN!

HEH! I LOOK PRETTY NICE, TO BOOT!
WELL!

SKULL CHALLENGE ROUND TWO
VRRRRRRRMM
VRRRRRRMMMBBB

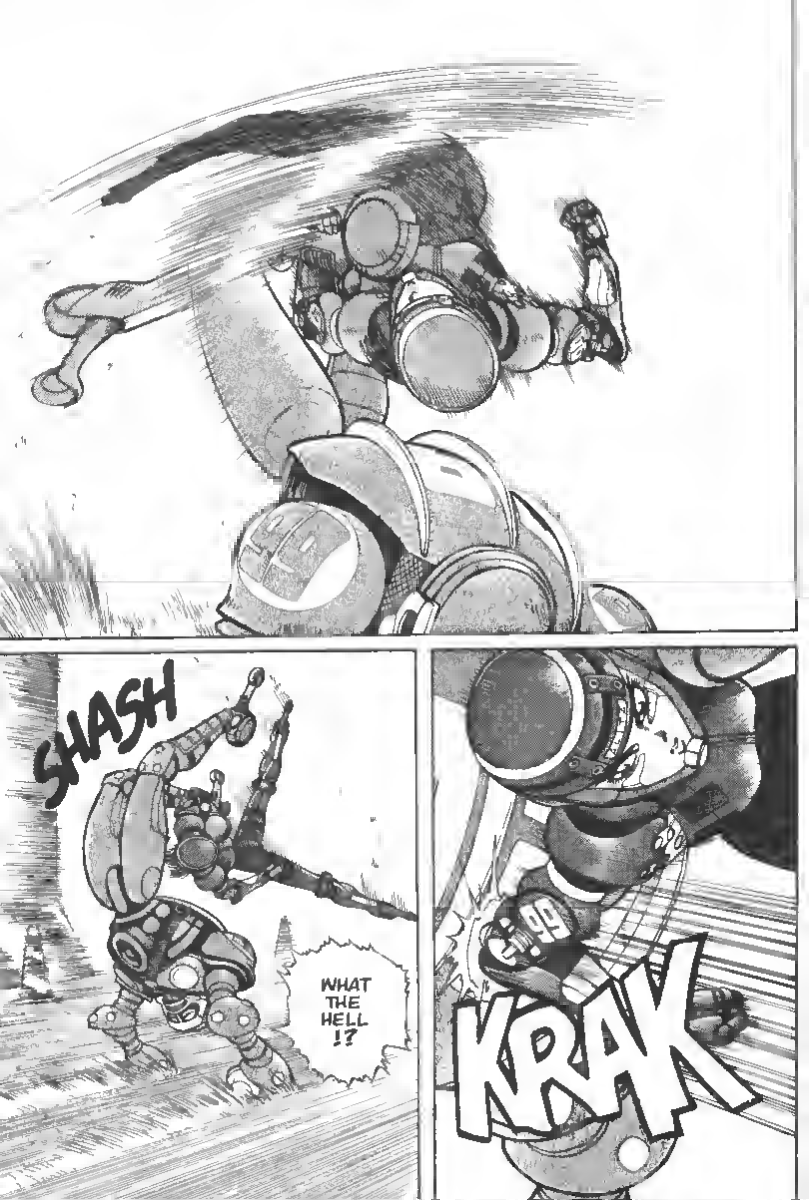
SKREEEM
VMMM
VRRRMM
THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A THIRD ROUND, YA UPSTART! YOU'RE SCRAP-- HERE AND NOW!
.....
READY!
GO!
FOOSH

SHAAAA
SHAA
CHAK
OH, NO! ALITA'S FALLEN BEHIND!
COULD THE NEW LEG BE CAUSING HER PROBLEMS..?

DAMN! THIS IS NO GOOD! AJAKUTTY'S TAKEN THE FRONT POSITION, CUTTING OFF ALITA!
VOOMMM
SHOOO
WHOOM

SKEEKEEKEE
SHE'S DODGED MY "HANGING MOON IN THE HEAVENS" KICK! GOT TO TRY ANOTHER MOVE!

WHOOM
YAAAH!
SKUSH
JOONG


SHASH
WHAT THE HELL !?
KRAK

AAAGH!
SPANG
SKEK
WOOSH

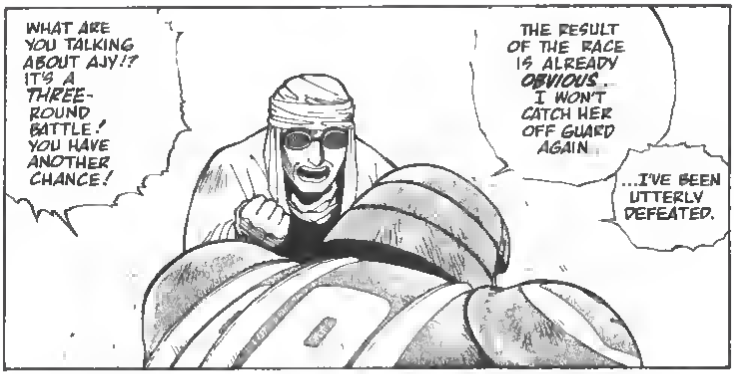
SKANG
ANG
KABOOM
TLANG
INCREDIBLE! SHE AVOIDED A DOUBLE KICK...AND AT THE SAME TIME WENT INTO THE THROW--FROM AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION!
BUT THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER YET! AJAKUTTY STILL HAS THE SKULL!

KANG
D-DAMMIT!
KANG KANG
SPANG
THAT BITCH!
NOW SHE'S PISSED ME OFF!
GRRR
SKRE
EECH
WHOOOWR!
SHOOM
SPLEESH
66

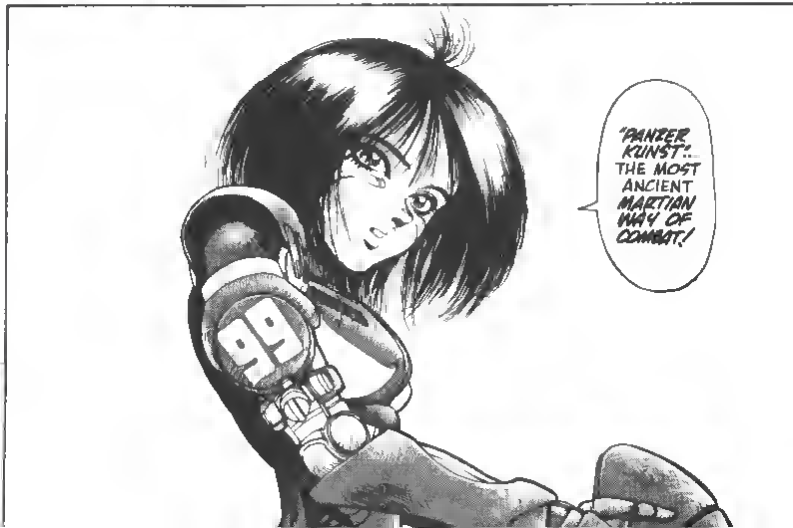
I'LL PULVERIZE THAT LEG TO SPLINTERS!
VAAAA
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY "HAMMER FORCE HURRICANE" KICK, LOW TO THE SHIN!
AND WHEN YOU FALL, I'M GOING TO POUND MY KNUCKLES INTO YOUR SKULL! IT'S TIME YOUR BRAIN MET THE TRACK, GIRL!
WHA-?!
FOO
Shoop
IMPOSSIBLE! SHE READ MY ATTACK!?

SKP
OK
SPAK
GAH!
SH-SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
TOIK.
THIS IS A PRACTICE GAME, RIGHT ?
ALITA
SHASH
.....

KAKROIK
TOK
ROUND TWO..
ALITA TAKES THE SKULL!
POOMP
MY FINEST "ASIAN ARTS" TECHNIQUES..
DEFEATED.
I HAND OVER MY NUMBER TO YOU, ALITA. YOU HAVE MORE RIGHT TO IT THAN I...

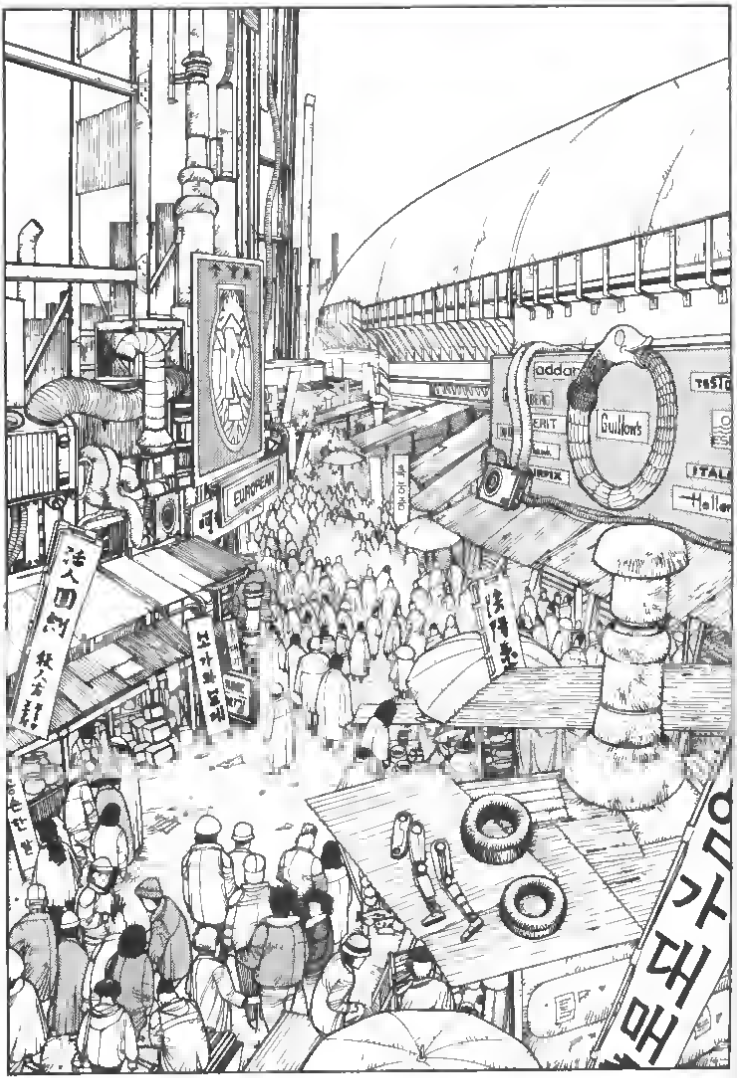

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT AJY!? IT'S A THREE-ROUND BATTLE! YOU HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
THE RESULT OF THE RACE IS ALREADY OBVIOUS. I WON'T CATCH HER OFF GUARD AGAIN.
...I'VE BEEN UTTERLY DEFEATED.

JUST TELL ME ONE THING...
...THE TECHNIQUE YOU USED, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANY OF THE EARTHIAN ARTS. WHAT IS IT?


"PANZER KUNST".. THE MOST ANCIENT MARTIAN WAY OF COMBAT!

THE SKULL CHALLENGE: PART TWO

Race 4: To Kill or to Win


EUROPEAN
Guillon's
INPIX

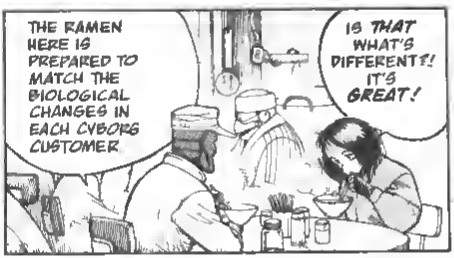
HAVEN'T BEEN OUT IN A WHILE.. KINDA NICE FOR A CHANGE!
JUST REMEMBER-- THE SECOND LEAGUE GAME IS NEXT WEEK, SO LET'S TAKE IT EASY TODAY.
¢100 EACH ¢100
UMBA SHOULD HAVE COME TOO, DON'T YOU THINK, ED?
NAW, HE'S GOT AGORAPHOBIA. NO FUN ON AN OUTING...
PARTS
HEY, CUTE HANDS, CHEAP!
Sale ¢1,500
VRRRM VRRRM

GYAHAHA!
OUTTA THE WAY, SLOWPOKES!
SKAKRAK
YAAGH!
SKLAK
UGK!
YEE HAAA!
AAH!
AVAGH!
KAKRESH!
HEY!!
HELP!!
ED, I... I'VE KIND OF GOT A DILEMMA TO SORT OUT...
HM !?
YAA HOO!
PONK
TONK
FWONK

SHASH
YOU SEE, I CHOSE MOTORBALL FOR MYSELF, BUT...
KWHUD
WOW...
KRASH
...BY CHOOSING MOTORBALL...EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...I ENDED UP CUTTING OFF THE ONE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...
FWUD

A LOVER, PERHAPS? A KOOCHIE KOOCHIE KOO?
NO, ED! THAT'S NOT IT..HE'S THE ONE WHO FOUND ME WITHOUT ANY MEMORIES--WHO TOOK ME IN AND GAVE ME MY NAME
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO MY BRO!
SKREE
DIIIIIE--!
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, I WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE NOW.
THERE'S NOT A DAY I DON'T REMEMBER THAT I-I LOVE HIM VERY MUCH.
VREEE
!?
SKIK
BUT, WHEN HE'S AROUND, I CAN NEVER BE HONEST ABOUT MY FEELINGS.
GRIN

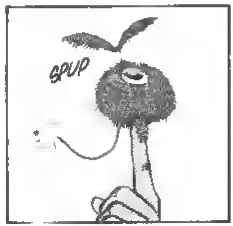
GEEZ.
FWAM!
YAHH!!!
WAAAH!
SPLOOSH!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING A LITTLE GUILTY, ALITA
GUILT IS LIKE A POISON WE ALL FEEL INSIDE US..
. .BUT A POISON IN SMALL DOSES CAN BE A CURE. IT'S BETTER FOR A PERSON TO HAVE SOME THAN NONE AT ALL..
.....
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
BY THE WAY, WHAT WAS THAT THROW?
THE TWO-WHEELED BIKER THREW..


THE RAMEN HERE IS PREPARED TO MATCH THE BIOLOGICAL CHANGES IN EACH CYBORG CUSTOMER.
IS THAT WHAT'S DIFFERENT?! IT'S GREAT!

TUP TUP TUP
OH!

COME BACK, KIMJI!
TUP TUP TUP
JUST LEAVE THE THING.

HEE, HEE! YOU GIVE GHUMIRA THIS FLUFFY?! YES?


SPUD

YOU SHOULDN'T STEAL OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF, SHUMIRA... NOW, GIVE IT BACK
AAAWWW...
HEY, JASHUGAN! THAT'S SOME COINCIDENCE!
BEEN A WHILE, ESDOC. YOU DOIN' WELL?
MORE OR LESS...WHAT WITH THIS TERMINAL FROST AND ALL, I CAN'T GET BY WITHOUT MY MEDS...
.....
...BUT I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ALITA, ONE OF MY NEW TEAM MEMBERS
THAT SO...

I'VE ALSO ADDED TO MY TEAM! THIS HERE IS MY NEW TUNER, DR. IDO.
HELLO
I-IDO!
OH!
WHAT? YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
HMM.. ? HAVE WE MET BEFORE, YOUNG LADY?

WHA--?
WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE!? WHY IS IDO ON JASHUGAN'S TEAM!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HERE!
TMP TMP
GLOM
I . I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE ..
SKTCH

A TOAST TO MY ONE-TIME RIVAL...
HEH.. "ONE-TIME," HUH ?
WELLLLLLLL... PRETTY SOON ALITA WILL BE ON YOUR CIRCUIT IN MY PLACE I'M SURE SHE'LL WANT TO SAY HELLO-- SO DON'T YOU GO RETIRING ANYTIME SOON
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
BORGHESIA
THAT GIRL IS GOING TO CHALLENGE THE GRAND CHAMPION...?
HA, HA, HA.. SOME JOKE!
!

YOU PEOPLE MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
SHE'D BE BETTER OFF PICKING UP GUYS IN THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, DON'T YOU THINK?
HMMH
WHA'D YOU SAY!?
HEY, HEY-- LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
BARBARA
FOOM
ALITA!
I CHALLENGE YOU, CHAMPION!
LET'S SEE RIGHT HERE AND NOW WHICH IS THE BETTER YOUR MASCHINE KLATSCH OR MY PANZER KUNST!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT...
YRRRMM
PANZER
...BUT I'M A PROFESSIONAL NO FIGHT WITHOUT PROFIT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GO HOME AND COOL OFF, SWEETHEART!

VRRRRMM
VRRRMMM
SHOOOM
SKRRRR

WAIT!
HUH!?
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A SQUABBLE...
JNG
IT'S A ONE-MILLION CHIP!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO!?
YA GONNA GIVE IT TO US!?
WHY DON'T WE HAVE A LITTLE GENTLE-MANLY WAGER?
TOK
IF YOU BEAT ME ARM WRESTLING, YOU CAN HAVE THE CHIP AND THE GIRL... BUT IF I WIN, YOU'LL CLEAR THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
HOW ABOUT IT?

NOT A BAD BET
GET HIM, BOGG !
VRRMM
HE H!
THIS JASHUGAN BODY ISN'T FOR MOTORBALL COMPETITION... JUST AN ORDINARY CIVILIAN MODEL!
THAT BIKER PUNK'S GOT MORE POWER-- MORE RIGIDITY! CAN HE WIN!?
ARE YOU READY ?
VMMM
VMM
SWAP

FWAM
HYAA!
WHAT THE--!?
WHOOM
WHUMP
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
I DIDN'T SEE A THING!

LOOK! THERE'S THE BOSSMAN'S KNUCKLE PRINT ON THE TABLE.
..LOOKS LIKE I WIN.
NOW GET OUTTA HERE, YOU PUNKS!
GRRRR
AGH! YOU'RE EMPEROR JASHUGAN!
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
EXCUSE US!
TMP TMP TMP
HEY-- SOMEBODY GIVE ME A LIFT!
.....

YOU SEE, ALITA?
BEFORE PANZER KUNST... BEFORE MASCHINE KLATSCH... BEFORE EVEN THE GIMMICKS OF THE BODY...
...THE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE IS DECIDED BY THE "CHI."
BORGHESIA
SOME CALL IT TIMING... SOME SAY IT'S CHANCE...
...BUT ONE STRIKES WHEN NECESSARY, AND AVOIDS WHEN NECESSARY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE POWER AND SPEED OF THE HEART...
BORGHESIA
...THAT CONCENTRATION CAN TURN ONE'S WILL INTO POSSIBILITY THAT IS THE "CHI."
TO BETTER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO PLAY THIS GAME WITH ME...
BEAT ME ARM WRESTLING, AND I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE. BUT IF I WIN...

IF YOU WIN..
SKRRK!
SKZZMMM
BOSCHETTA
AH!
EEP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
...I'LL GIVE YOU MY HEART!
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
A-ALITA...

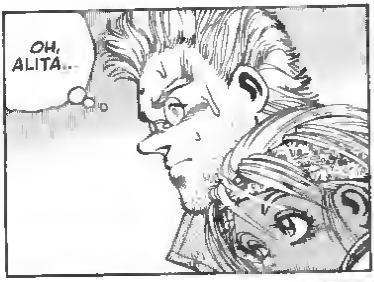
ED, IF I LOSE, I WANT YOU TO DESTROY THIS HEART! THROW IT AWAY!
!!
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
BORO
.....
UH.. ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO IT!
I MUSTN'T LOSE! I'D RATHER DIE THAN LOSE TO IDO!
GADOOM
SHE'S GLARING AT US.
GADOOM
N-NO! THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...

GADOOM
GADOOM
BORGHESIA
GADOOM
READY
!

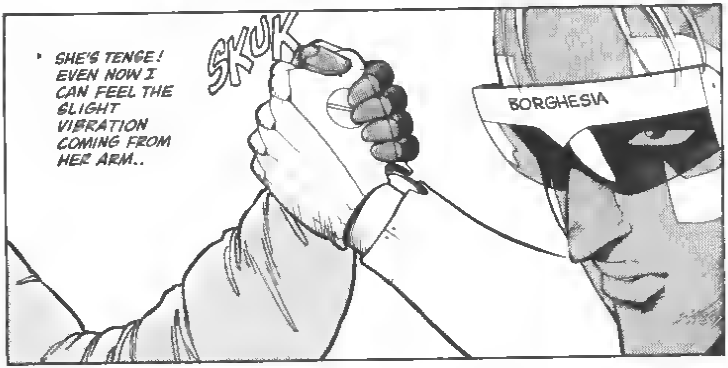
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
ALL THIS-- OVER A MERE MOTORBALL CHALLENGE.
YOUR HEART'S ON THE LINE, ALITA THAT'S TRUE COURAGE THAT'S
...ADMIRABLE!

READY
!

ULP


OH, ALITA..

WHOA!
DON'T USE SO MUCH POWER BEFORE WE BEGIN
MY ARM IS ONLY STANDARD ISSUE-- NOT LIKE YOUR COMPETITIVE CYBORG BODY...
SKEE
SKEEEEK


SHE'S TENSE! EVEN NOW I CAN FEEL THE SLIGHT VIBRATION COMING FROM HER ARM..
SKUK
BORGHESIA

THE STRAIN ON HER BONES— THE WHINE OF THE MOTORS— THE VIBRATION FROM THE CIRCUITS... I CAN SEE IT ALL IN MY MIND.
IT'S A WELL-MAINTAINED COMPETITION MODEL. GOOD BALANCE, TOO.
BORGHESIA
THE ACTUATORS HAVE MORE CHANNELS THAN NORMAL... SACRIFICING POWER FOR ADDED FLEXIBILITY—
JUDGING FROM THE WEAR ON HER JOINTS, SHE SEEMS PRETTY CONFIDENT OF HER SPEED.
STILL, SHE HAS FOUR TO FIVE TIMES MY POWER OUTPUT RIGHT NOW.
BORGHESIA
THE MATCH WILL BE INSTANTANEOUS!
THE "CHI" WILL DECIDE THE VICTOR!

THE "CHI"...
THE "CHI" IS NOT JUST ABOUT REACTION SPEED OR HOW STRONGLY THE MUSCLES REACT...
...IT'S ALSO THE ABILITY TO READ THE OPPONENT'S ACTIONS AN INSTANT BEFORE THEY HAPPEN, THEN CONCENTRATE ALL OF ONE'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO THE ONE POINT THAT WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE...
A WELL FOCUSED "CHI" WILL BRING FORTH INCREDIBLE POWER... THE RAYS OF THE SUN CAN'T BURN PAPER, BUT..
...BY USING A MAGNIFYING LENS--CONCENTRATING THE RAYS ON ONE POINT-- THE PAPER WILL BURN! IT'S THE SAME PRINCIPLE!
DAMMIT! IF ALITA LOSES, I'LL BE FORCED TO DESTROY HER HEART. I CAN'T DO THAT! SHE'S MY LAST HOPE.. THE ONLY CHANCE I HAVE TO REALIZE MY DREAMS!
I MUST BELIEVE IN HER! WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY WILL-- MY HEART--I MUST BELIEVE THAT SHE'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES!
GADOOM

WHEN FACE-TO-FACE WITH DEATH...
...PEOPLE CAN HAVE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF CONCENTRATION! I'VE FELT IT MYSELF!
GADOOM
IF, FOR EVEN AN INSTANT, ALITA'S "CHI" RIVALS JASHUGAN'S "CHI" SHE HAS A CHANCE! ALITA POSSESSES THE POWER ADVANTAGE-- IF SHE CAN USE IT!
HERE GOES!
BE--
SHAA
BE-GI--
!?
UNGH
UH!

DAMN! OF ALL TIMES FOR THE "TERMINAL FROST" TO KICK IN!
CHAK
TWITCH
TWAK
H-HEY, DOC! CAN YOU TAKE OVER AS THE REFEREE !?
.....
ALITA CAN'T WIN! JASHUGAN HAS HAD BRAIN SURGERY TO ENHANCE HIS GENERATION OF "CHI"!
THE REASON I JOINED JASHUGAN'S TEAM WAS TO DEFEAT ALITA... BUT I NEVER WANTED TO GET HER KILLED!

I-I'M AGAINST THIS GAME!
THE OUTCOME IS OBVIOUS FROM THE START-- PREORDAINED!
WHA--?
FOOK
...I DO!
BORGHESIA
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT STARTED ALL THIS CRAZINESS!
JASHUGAN! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO GAIN FROM KILLING THIS GIRL...
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
SHE'S SHOWN HER DETERMINATION-- HOW CAN I BACK DOWN NOW!?
SHUMIRA!
BORGHESIA

HEE, HEE! SHUMIRA BE JUDGE! OKAY?
DON'T TOUCH HER COMPETITION BODY-- YOU'LL GET HURT..
EH!
.....
IF YOU DIE, CAN SHUMIRA HAVE YOUR FLUFFY? OKAY?
.....
WHATEVER YOU WANT!
YAAAY!
OKAY !

READY!
GET SET!
GO!
BORGHESIA

YAAAAAH!
WHAT!?
FWAM

SSSSH
D-DID SHE WIN!?
BIG B...
N-NO! NOT YET!
.....!
SKEEEE
FEH
NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL.
KUAK

HYAA!
SKOOM
TASH
UHN!
TLAK
IMPOSSIBLE! ALITA'S CYBORG RACING BODY SHOULD EASILY OVERPOWER JASHUGAN'S STREET MODEL!
WAIT! I SMELL SOMETHING BURNING...
SSS

SPLAM
WAAH!
UNH...
UGH...
SPAK
SPOK
SPOK
FORGHESIA
IT WAS A NICE TRY.
I FOCUSED "CHI" ON THE WEAKEST PART OF YOUR ARM--AND YOU SEE THE RESULT!
EIGHTY PERCENT OF YOUR ACTUATORS ARE NOW BLOWN!
CHOOK
UHHN!
SKEK

DOP
FOR YOU TO DIE NOW... WOULD BE A WASTE
!?
Wff
.....
Uff
Wff

WE'LL FINISH THIS ON THE CIRCUIT!
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
ALITA... WASN'T IT?

MOTORBALL REGS SAY I CAN'T PLAY ONE ON ONE AGAINST A SECOND LEAGUE PLAYER.
DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU GET, BUT PUT TOGETHER A CHALLENGER TEAM--AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS!
A TEAM OF FIVE... CHALLENGERS..
THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN YOUR TEAM'S TOGETHER, I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT ALITA!
SALE
WHY DID BIG BROTHER STOP!? SHUMIRA WANTED FLUFFY!
OH, I'LL BUY YOU ONE JUST LIKE IT.
SALE

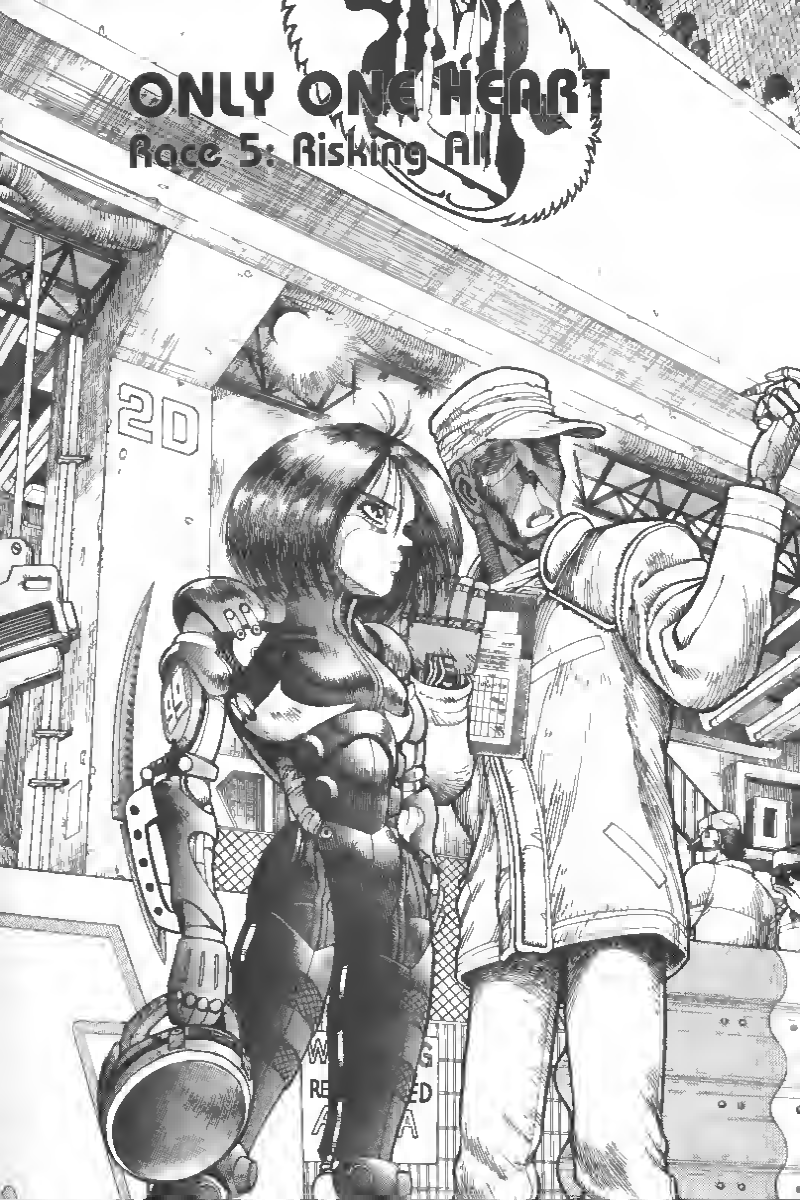
hff
hff
aff
HERE! PUT YOUR HEART AWAY!
TOOM TOOM
SHEESH! PULLING A STUNT LIKE THAT! SHAVED TEN YEARS OFF MY LIFE!
AHHHHH
TOOM
I DON'T GET IT-- YOU SEEM... HAPPY.
UH-HUH

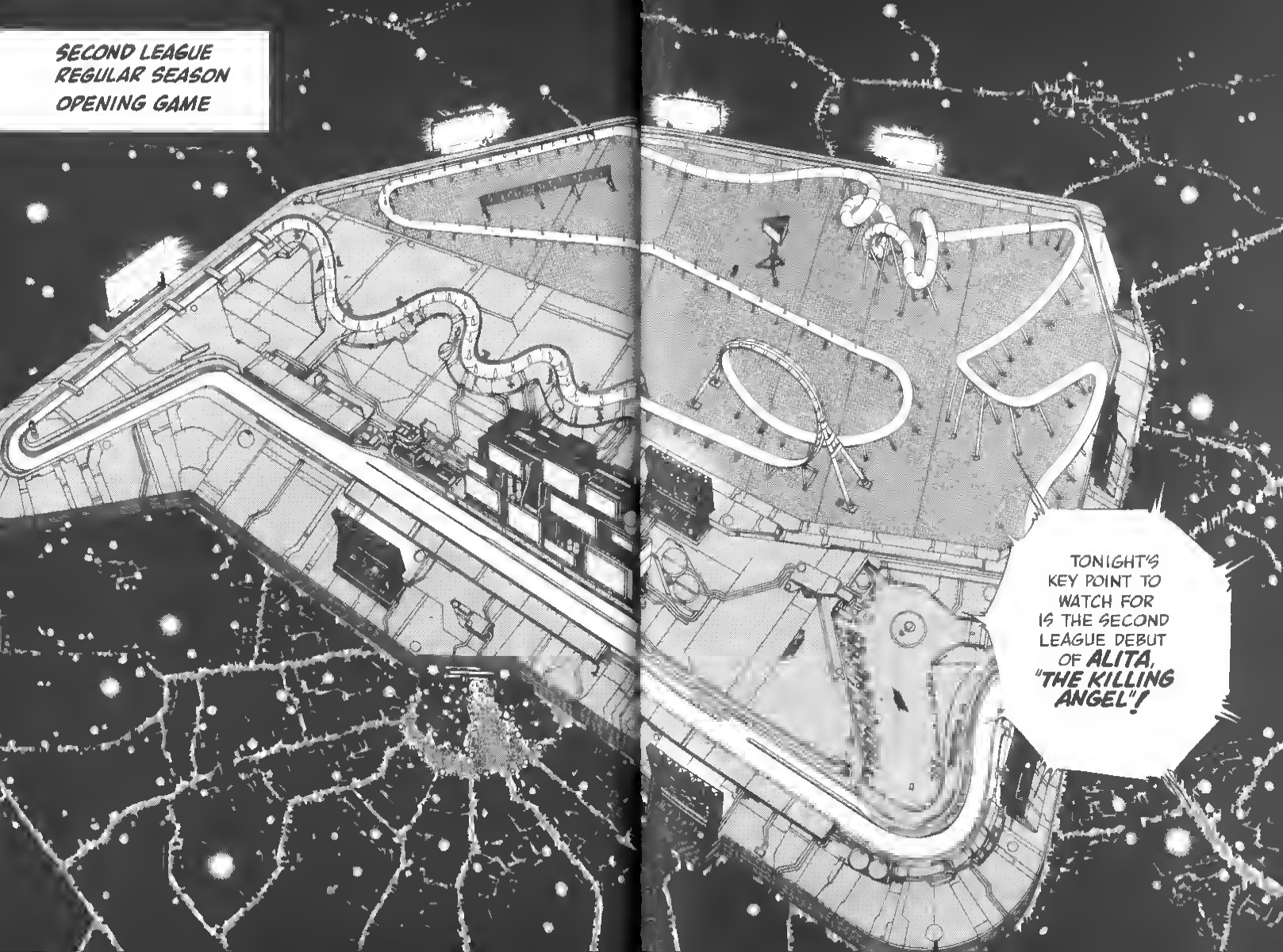
I NEVER KNEW SUCH AN INCREDIBLE FUN EXISTED...
TOK
UNGH..
!?
EEK!
TONG

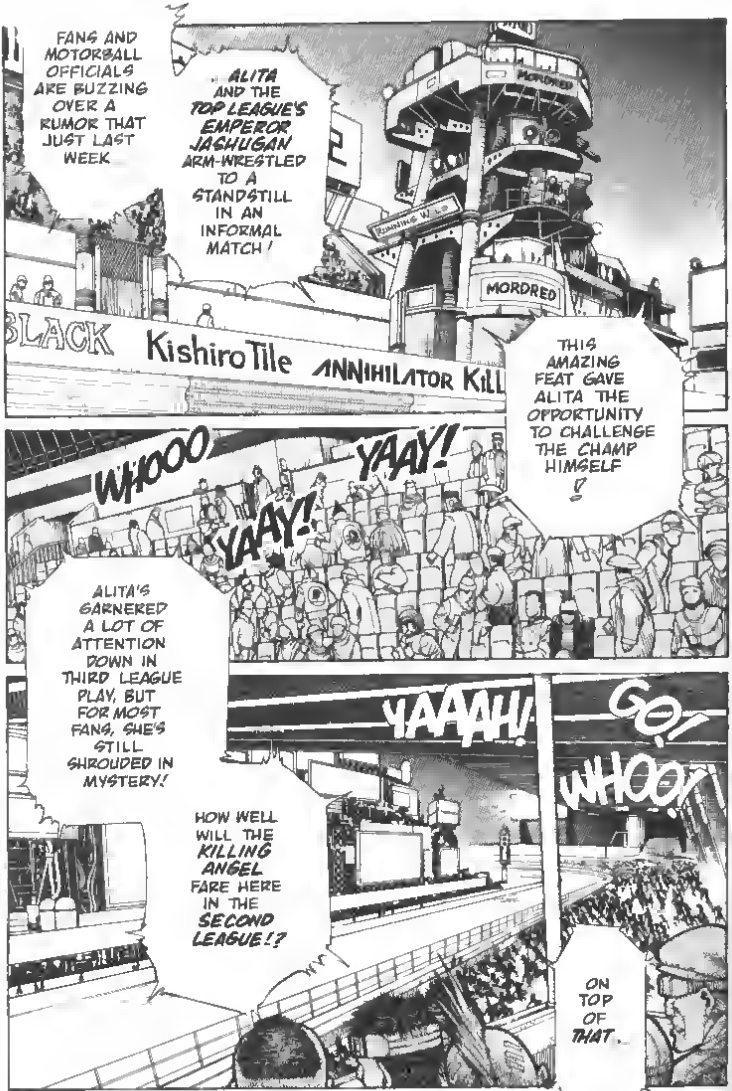
BIG BROTHER'S HAND !?
JASHUGAN WHAT TH--!?
HEH! IT SEEMS THAT WOMAN-- SHE SENT SOME SORT OF VIBRATION INTO MY ARM!

MY COMMAND OF "CHI" TOOK ALITA'S POWER DOWN TO EIGHTY PERCENT, BUT.
BY THEN MY ARM WAS A GONER! HAD WE CONTINUED ARM WRESTLING, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO LOSE!

HEH HEH
NOW THERE'S ONE MORE REASON TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER!
BORGHESIA


ONLY ONE HEART
Race 5: Risking All

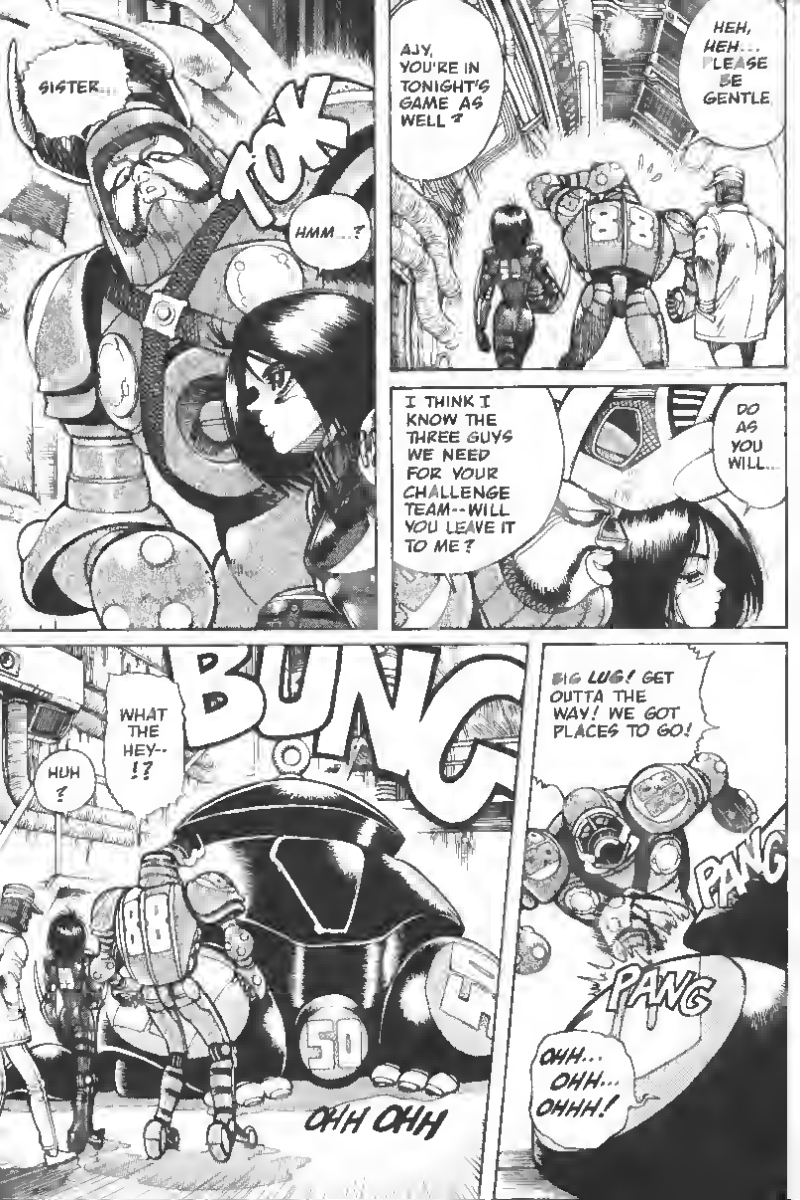

SECOND LEAGUE
REGULAR SEASON
OPENING GAME
TONIGHT'S KEY POINT TO WATCH FOR IS THE SECOND LEAGUE DEBUT OF ALITA, "THE KILLING ANGEL"!


FANS AND MOTORBALL OFFICIALS ARE BUZZING OVER A RUMOR THAT JUST LAST WEEK...
ALITA AND THE TOP LEAGUE'S EMPEROR JAGHUGAN ARM-WRESTLED TO A STANDSTILL IN AN INFORMAL MATCH!
MORDRED
MORDRED
BLACK KishiroTile ANNIHILATOR Kill
THIS AMAZING FEAT GAVE ALITA THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE CHAMP HIMSELF!
WHOOO
YAAY!
YAAY!
ALITA'S GARNERED A LOT OF ATTENTION DOWN IN THIRD LEAGUE PLAY, BUT FOR MOST FANS, SHE'S STILL SHROUDED IN MYSTERY!
HOW WELL WILL THE KILLING ANGEL FARE HERE IN THE SECOND LEAGUE!?
YAAAH!
GO!
WHOO!
ON TOP OF THAT...

KIK KIK CHIK
... SPECULATION IS RAMPANT ABOUT WHO ALITA WILL CHOOSE TO JOIN HER FIVE-MAN CHALLENGE TEAM TO FACE JASHUGAN!
TLOK
WHO WILL ALITA PICK AS ALLIES!?
GREEE
FSSSHH
99
SHASH
ALITA

FSSSSHH

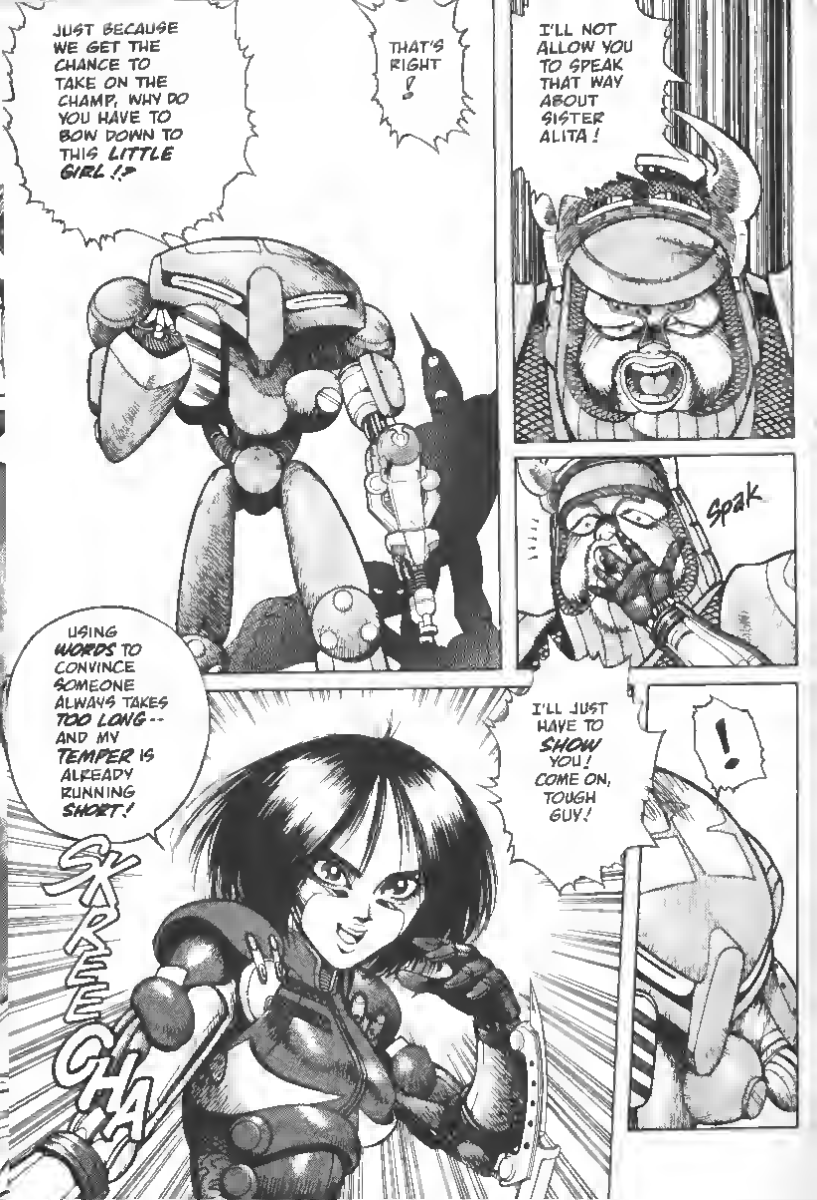
HMM!
YOUR EXPRESSION'S CHANGED SINCE THAT RUN-IN WITH JASHUGAN
OH?
BEFORE, YOU SEEMED SORT OF RECKLESS--ALOOF...
NOW I HAVE A PURPOSE... ONE NAMED JASHUGAN. AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS MISSING BEFORE...
...A GOAL, A MISSION FOR MY LIFE! A PERSON HAS TO HAVE SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR!
ALWAYS BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE--RUNNING AWAY--IT'LL JUST MAKE YOU ROT INSIDE! I CAN'T LIVE THAT WAY... AND WITH JASHUGAN TO GO UP AGAINST, I WON'T HAVE TO!


SISTER...
TOK
HMM...?
AJY, YOU'RE IN TONIGHT'S GAME AS WELL?
HEH, HEH... PLEASE BE GENTLE
I THINK I KNOW THE THREE GUYS WE NEED FOR YOUR CHALLENGE TEAM--WILL YOU LEAVE IT TO ME?
DO AS YOU WILL...
BUNG
WHAT THE HEY--!?
HUH?
OHH OHH
BIG LUG! GET OUTTA THE WAY! WE GOT PLACES TO GO!
PANG
PANG
OHH... OHH... OHHH!

YAH!
SKEEV
OH, OH PLEEEZE!
WHSH
PLEASE!
WHOOK
ALITA! I IN LOVE WITH YOU SO GREATLY--! PLEASE LET ME IN YOUR GROUP!
WAWAAH!
BOM BOM
I, TIEGEL, PROMISE TO BE USEFUL!
PLEA--WAIT! ALITA, WHEN DID YOU GROW A BEARD?
COME BACK IN ANOTHER LIFE! HAIYAAA!
EEEEP!
YOU DAMNED FOOL!
SKRAK!

PHEW! WHAT WAS THAT !?
NUMBER 50, TIEGEL— HOLDER OF THE LOWEST AVERAGE IN THE SECOND LEAGUE. THEY CALL HIM "THE SHAME OF THE SECOND."
NO ONE YOU NEED TO EVEN THINK ABOUT, SISTER
MASTER !?
OH-- YOU GUYS ARE HERE!
TANG
SKAAA
KOM
!?

THESE ARE MY STUDENTS OF THE "ASIAN ARTS," EACH WITH A FIELD OF SPECIALTY! THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF THE SECOND LEAGUE'S COMBAT-ORIENTED PLAYERS!
LET ME INTRODUCE THEM!
NUMBER 33, "PILE DRIVER BARGERALD" WIELDER OF THE ASIAN ART MUE KATCHUAH!
NUMBER 24, "SKARAMASAKUS THE RUNNER" ACCOMPLISHED IN THE ASIAN ART OF YUAN YANG TI KON CHUN!
NUMBER 9, HALBERD SPECIALIZES IN THE LEG TECHNIQUES OF TAE KWON DO!
HOLD ON, MASTER!
NUH!?


JUST BECAUSE WE GET THE CHANCE TO TAKE ON THE CHAMP, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BOW DOWN TO THIS LITTLE GIRL!?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL NOT ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK THAT WAY ABOUT SISTER ALITA!
Spak
USING WORDS TO CONVINCE SOMEONE ALWAYS TAKES TOO LONG -- AND MY TEMPER IS ALREADY RUNNING SHORT!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW YOU! COME ON, TOUGH GUY!
!
SKREECHA

ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
HEH, HEH...
PILE-DRIVER ATTACK!
CHOG
CHASE
FWOK
SP
LIK

KABWAM
STLOK
SKIK TIK
DAMN! A STALEMATE!
HEH, HEH
AJY! YOUR STUDENTS AREN'T HALF BAD
PWAP
GUAH!

THEY BOTH STOPPED-- AND IT LOOKED LIKE A DRAW--BUT IF THIS HAD BEEN A REAL FIGHT, ALITA'S BLADE WOULD HAVE SEVERED BARGE'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM!
DID SHE FAKE A DRAW SO THAT BARGERALD AND I COULD SAVE FACE...?
SHE
UH OH!
ENG
THAT SHARPENING SOUND COULD IT BE!?
SHEENG
HEH, HEH, HEH...
HEE, HEE, HEE, HEE...

THE GAME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
WHAT'S A BUNCH OF GRUNTS LIKE YOU DISCUSSING, EH?
SHEENG
TING
SO WHO IS THIS?
Y-YOU DON'T KNOW!?
THAT'S "CALIGULA" ARMBLESSED! HE'S THE CRUELEST PLAYER EVER TO BECOME CHAMP OF THE SECOND LEAGUE!
SHEENG
GRR!
HE'S BROUGHT HIS SIDEKICK, "DIRTY" PESHKAVUS!
SO YOU'RE THE INFAMOUS ALITA! THE FANS MAY FIND IT UNFORTUNATE THAT YOUR CHALLENGE TO JASHUGAN WILL NOT BE COMING TO PASS...
BECAUSE TONIGHT YOUR BRAIN WILL BE FLOOR WAX! I'M GOING TO POLISH THE WHOLE ARENA WITH YOUR HEAD!

OH, YEAH... I FORGOT THAT THE SECOND LEAGUE HAD A CHAMPION OF ITS OWN...
IF YOU TWO WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHALLENGE TEAM, STOP ACTING SO TOUGH AND ASK.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
UH!
AAARGH!
HOW DARE SHE HUMILIATE ME!?
I'LL KILL HER! SHE'S GOING TO DIE!
STOMP
GAAA!
DEATH, DEATH, DEATH!
WOMP WOMP
THAT'S SOME TANTRUM! SERVES HIM RIGHT...
SISTER, YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO PROVOKE PEOPLE, DON'T YOU?
ALL I DO IS SPEAK MY MIND...

WHERE WERE YOU TWO!? WE STILL HAVE TO DO THE FINAL CHECK ON ALITA'S BODY!
SORRY..
Tup Tup Tup
FHSSH
!?

SUCH A SWIFT APPROACH...! HAD THIS BEEN A FIGHT, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFENSELESS!
7
SHOOSH
A WOMAN...
AJY, THIS IS REALLY EXCITING...!
NUMBER 7, "CRIMSON WIND" ZAFAL TAKIÉ. HER ONLY WEAPON, HER INCREDIBLE SPEED AND TECHNIQUE
.....

EVEN BEFORE THE GAME BEGINS, THE LEVEL OF EXCITEMENT HERE AT GREGORY CIRCUIT IS UNUSUALLY HIGH!
YEAAA!
SO LET'S SEE HOW THIS ALITA PLAYS...

DOCTOR IDO, AREN'T YOU GOING TO WATCH ALITA'S GAME?
NO. I'LL PASS
WHY DO YOU HIDE IT?
UH... HIDE WHAT?
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT WITH ME! YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THIS ALITA!
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE AFTER!?

To be continued in BATTLE ANGEL ALITA: ANGEL OF VICTORY graphic novel!